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ARABIAN NIGHTS
ENTERTAINMENTS.

CONSISTING OF
A COLLECTION OF
STORIES,

TOLD BY
THE SULTANESS OF THE INDIES,

To divert the Sultan from the execution of a bloody vow
he had made, to marry a lady every day, and have
cut her off next morning, to avenge him-
self for the disloyalty of his first Sultaness.

CONTAINING

*A better account of the Customs, Manners, and Religion
of the Eastern Nations, viz. Tartars, Persians,
and Indians, than hitherto published.*

TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH

From the Arabian MSS. by Mr. Gallard, of the Royal Academy:
and now into English, from the Paris Edition.

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ARABIAN NIGHTS ENTERTAINMENTS.

SCHAHRIAR, the great Sultan of the Indies, finding his Sultanness unfaithful, was so enraged, that he resolved to wed a maiden every night, and put her to death next morning : and accordingly he ordered the grand vizier to bring him the daughter of one of his officers. The vizier obeyed : the sultan lay with her, and next morning ordered the vizier to strangle her, and get him another. And in a word, there was every day a maid married, and a wife murdered. The grand vizier, who was the executioner, had two daughters, the eldest called Scheherazade, and the youngest Dinarzade : the eldest was a lady of very great merit, had courage, wit, and penetration, far above her sex ; she had read abundance, and had such a fine memory, that she never forgot any thing. She had applied herself to philosophy, physic, history, and the liberal arts ; besides this she was a perfect beauty, and all her fine qualifications was crowned by solid virtue.

The vizier was extremely fond of so worthy a daughter : and one day, as they were discoursing together, she said to her father. I have one favor to beg of you, and most humbly pray you to grant it me ; I will not refuse it, said he, provided it be just. For the justness of it, says she, there can be no question : I have a design to stop the sultan's barbarity, and I conjure you to procure me the honor of his bed. O heavens ! replied the vizier, have you lost your senses ? Dear father, said she, I know the danger : if I perish, my death will be glorious ; and if I succeed, I shall do my country an important piece of service. The vizier could not dissuade her from her design ; so he went that minute to acquaint the sultan that next night he would bring him Scheherazade. The sultan was surprised at the sacrifice which he made him. How could you resolve on it, says he ? Sir, answers the vizier, it's her own offer ; she prefers the honor of being your majesty's wife one night to her life. Don't mistake yourself, vizier, says the sultan : to-morrow when I put Scheherazade into your hands, to take away her life. if you fail, I swear you shall die. Sir, says the vizier, I will obey your orders : so Schahriar told him he might bring his daughter when he pleased. The vizier returned, and told his daughter, who

received the news with great joy. Scheherazade having prepared her sister, drest herself to appear before the sultan. The vizier introduced her to the sultan's apartment, and as soon as the sultan was alone with her, he bid her uncover her face, and found it so beautiful, he was perfectly charmed with her, and perceiving her to be in tears, asked her the reason. Sir, said she, I have a sister who loves me tenderly, and I could wish she might be all night in this chamber, that I might see her, and bid her once more adieu. Schahriar having consented, Dinarzade was sent for, and came. The sultan went to bed with Scheherazade upon an alcove, and Dinarzade lay in a bed near the foot thereof. An hour before day, Dinarzade calls out to her sister. "My dear sister, if you be not asleep, will you tell me one of the fine stories you have read? Alas, this may be the last time I may have the satisfaction." Scheherazade addressed herself to the sultan: Sir, will your majesty be pleased to allow me to satisfy my sister? With all my heart, answers the sultan.

THE FIRST NIGHT.

The Merchant and the Genie.

SIR,

THERE was formerly a merchant who had a great estate in lands, goods, and money. He was obliged from time to time to take journies, and talk with his correspondents; and one day being under the necessity of going a long journey, about an affair of importance, he took a horse, and put a portmanteau behind him, with some biscuits and dates, because he had a great desert to pass over, where he could have no manner of provisions. He arrived without any accident at the end of his journey; and having dispatched his affairs, took horse again, in order to return home.

The fourth day of his journey, he was so much incommoded by the heat of the sun, and the reflection of the heat from the earth, that he turned out of the road to refresh himself under some trees that he saw in the country. There he found at the foot of a great walnut-tree, a fountain of very clear running water, and alighting, tied his horse to a branch of a tree, and sitting down by the fountain, took some dates out of his portmanteau, and as he eat his dates, threw the shells about on both sides of him.

When he had done eating, being a good mussulman, he washed his hands, his face, and his feet, and said his prayers. He had not made an end, but was still on his knees, when he saw a genie appear, all white with age, and of a monstrous bulk, who advancing towards him with a scimiter in his hand, spoke to him in the terrible voice thus : Rise up, that I may kill thee with this scimiter, as you have killed my son ; and accompanied these words with a frightful cry. The merchant being as much frightened at the hideous shape of the monster, as at those threatening words, answered him trembling : Alas ! my good lord, of what crime can I be guilty towards you, that you should take away my life ! I will, replies the Genie, kill thee, as thou hast killed my son. O heavens ! says the merchant, how could I kill your son ? I did not know him, nor even saw him. Did not you sit down when you came hither, replied the Genie ? Did not you take dates out of your portmanteau, and as you eat them, did not you throw the shells about on both sides ? I did all that you say, answers the merchant, I cannot deny it. If it be so, replied the Genie, I tell thee that thou hast killed my son ; and the way was thus : When you threw your nut-shells about, my son was passing by, and you threw one of them into his eye, which killed him ; therefore I must kill thee. Ah ! my lord, pardon me ! cried the merchant. No pardon, answers the Genie, no mercy. Is it not just to kill him that hath killed another ? I agree to it, says the merchant, but certainly I never killed your son ; and if I have, it was unknown to me, and I did it innocently ; therefore I beg you to pardon me, and to suffer me to live. No, no, says the Genie, persisting in his resolution, I must kill thee since thou hast killed my son ; and then taking the merchant by the arm, he threw him with his face upon the ground, and lifted up his scimiter to cut off his head.

The merchant, all in tears, protested he was innocent, bewailed his wife and children, and spoke to the Genie in the most moving expressions that could be uttered. The Genie with his scimiter still lifted up, had so much patience as to hear the wretch make an end of his lamentations, but would not relent. All this whining, says the monster, is to no purpose, though you should shed tears of blood, that shall

not hinder me to kill thee, as thou hast killed my son. Why, replied the merchant, will nothing prevail with you : will you absolutely take away the life of a poor innocent ? Yes, replied the Genie, I am resolved upon it. As she spoke these words, perceiving it was day, and knowing that the sultan arose betimes in the morning to say his prayers, and hold his council, Scheherazade held her peace. Lord ! sister, says Dinarzade, what a wonderful story is this ! The remainder of it, says Scheherazade, is more surprising, and you will be of my mind, if the sultan will let me live this day, and permit me to tell it to you next night. Schahriar, who had listened to Scheherazade with pleasure, says to himself, I'll stay till to-morrow, for I can at any time put her to death when she has made an end of the story. So having resolved not to take Scheherazade's life that day, he rose and went to his prayers, and then called his council.

All this time the grand vizier was terribly uneasy. Instead of sleeping, he spent the night in sighs and groans, bewailing the lot of his daughter, of whom he believed that he himself should be the executioner. And in this melancholy prospect, he was afraid of seeing the sultan ; but was agreeably surprised, when he saw the prince enter the council chamber without giving him the fatal orders he expected.

The sultan, according to his custom, spent the day in regulating his affairs ; and when night came, he went to bed with Scheherazade. Next morning before day, Dinarzade failed not to address herself to her sister, thus : My dear sister, if you be not asleep, I pray you till day break, which must be in a very little time, to go on with the story which you began last night. The sultan, without staying till Scheherazade asked him leave, bid her to make an end of the story of the Genie and the merchant, for I long to hear the issue of it ; upon which Scheherazade spoke, and continued the story as follows :

THE SECOND NIGHT.

WHEN the merchant saw that the Genie was going to cut off his head, he cried out aloud, and said to him : For heaven's sake hold your hand ; allow me one word ; be so good as to grant me some respite ; allow me but time to bid my wife and children adieu, and to divide my estate

among them by will, that they may not go to law with one another after my death ; and when I have done so, I will come back to this same place, and submit to whatever you shall please to order concerning me. But, says the Genie, if I grant you the time you demand, I doubt you'll never return. If you will believe my oath, answered the merchant, I swear by all that's sacred, that I will come and meet you here without fail. What time do you demand, then ? replies the Genie : I ask a year, says the merchant ; I cannot have less to order my affairs, and prepare myself to die without regret. But I promise you, that this day twelve months I will return under these trees, and put myself into your hands. Do you take heaven to be witness to this promise, says the Genie ? I do, answers the merchant, and repeat it, and you may rely upon my oath. Upon this the Genie left him near the fountain and disappeared.

The merchant being recovered from his fright, mounted his horse, and set forward on his journey. And as he was glad on the one hand that he had escaped so great a danger, so he was mortally sorry on the other, when he thought on his fatal oath. When he came home, his wife and children received him with all the demonstrations of perfect joy. But he, instead of making them answerable returns, fell a weeping bitterly ; from whence they readily conjectured that something extraordinary had befallen him. His wife asked the reason of his excessive grief and tears. We are all overjoyed, says she, at your return, but you frighten us to see you in this condition : pray tell us the cause of your sorrow. Alas ! replies the husband, the cause of it is, that I have but a year to live ; and then told her what had passed betwixt him and the Genie, and that he had given him his oath to return at the end of the year, to receive death from his hands.

When they heard this sad news, they all began to lament heartily. His wife made a pitiful outcry, beat her face, and tore her hair. The children being all in tears, made the house resound with their groans ; and the father, not being able to overcome nature, mixed his tears with theirs. So that in a word, it was the most affecting spectacle that any man could behold.

Next morning the merchant applied himself to put his affairs in order ; and first of all to pay his debts. He made

presents to his friends; gave great alms to the poor, set his slaves of both sexes at liberty, divided his estate among his children, appointed guardians for such of them as were not come to age; and restoring to his wife all that was due to her by contract of marriage, he gave her over and above all that he could do by law.

At last the year expired, and he must go. He put his burial clothes in his portmanteau, but never was there such grief seen, as when he came to bid his wife and children adieu. They could not think of parting; but resolved to go along, and die with him: but finding that he must be forced to part with those dear objects, he spoke to them thus: My dear wife and children, says he, I obey the order of heaven in quitting you; follow my example, submit courageously to this necessity, and consider that it is the destiny of man to die. Having said these words, he went out of the hearing of the cries of his family, and taking his journey, arrived at the place where he promised to meet the Genie on the day appointed. He alighted, and setting himself down by the fountain, waited the coming of the Genie with all the sorrow imaginable. Whilst he languished in this cruel expectation, a good old man, leading a bitch, appeared, and drew near him; they saluted one another; after which the old man says to him: Brother, may I ask you, why are you come into this desert place, where there is nothing but evil spirits, and by consequence you cannot be safe. To look upon these fine trees, indeed one would think the place inhabited; but it is a true wilderness, where it is not safe to stay long.

THE THIRD NIGHT.

NEXT morning Dinarzade made the same request to her sister as formerly, thus: My dear sister, says she, if you be not asleep, tell me one of the pleasant stories that you have read. But the sultan, willing to understand what followed between the merchant and the Genie, bid her go on with that; which she did as follows:

Sir, while the merchant and the old man that led the bitch, were talking, they saw another old man coming to them, followed by two black dogs. After they had saluted one another, he asked them what they did in that place. The old man with the bitch told him the adventures of the merchant and the Genie, with all that had passed between

them, particularly the merchant's oath. He added, that this was the day agreed on, and that he was resolved to stay and see the issue.

The second old man thinking it also worth his curiosity, resolved to do the like. He sat down by them, and they had scarce begun to talk together, but there came a third old man, who addressing himself to the two former, asked why the merchant that sat with them looked so melancholy. They told him the reason of it, which appeared so extraordinary to him, that he also resolved to witness the result.

In a little time, they perceived in the field a thick vapor, like a cloud of dust raised by a whirlwind, advancing towards them, which vanished on a sudden, and then the Genie appeared, who without saluting them, came to the merchant with his drawn scimiter, and taking him by the arm, says: Get thee up, that I may kill thee, as thou hast killed my son. The merchant and the three old men being frightened, began to lament, and to fill the air with their cries. Here Scheherazade, perceiving day, left off her story, which did so much whet the sultan's curiosity, that he was absolutely resolved to hear the end of it, and put off the sultaness's execution till next day.

Nobody can express the grand vizier's joy when he perceived that the sultan did not order him to kill Scheherazade; his family, the court, and all people in general, was astonished at it.

THE FOURTH NIGHT.

TOWARDS the end of the following night, Dinarzade failed not to awake the sultaness. My dear sister, says she, if you be not asleep, pray tell me one of your fine stories. Then Scheherazade, with the sultan's permission, spoke as follows:

Sir, when the old man that led the bitch, saw the Genie lay hold of the merchant, and about to kill him without pity, he threw himself at the feet of the monster, and kissed them, says to him: Prince of Genies, I most humbly request you to suspend your anger, and do me the favor to hear me. I will tell you the history of my life, and of the bitch you see; and if you think it more wonderful and surprising than the adventures of the merchant you are going to kill, I hope you will pardon the poor unfortunate man

the third of his crime. The Genie took some time to consult on it, but answered at last : Well then I agree to it.

The History of the first Old Man and the Bitch.

I SHALL begin, then, says the old man : listen to me, I pray you, with attention. This bitch you see, is my cousin ; nay, what is more, is my wife, She was only twelve years of age when I married her : so that I may justly say, she ought as much to regard me as her father, as her kinsman and husband.

We lived together twenty years without any children, yet her barrenness did not hinder my having a great deal of complaisance and friendship for her. The desire of having children only, made me buy a slave, by whom I had a son, who was extremely promising. My wife being jealous, conceived a hatred for both mother and child ; but concealed it so well, that I did not know it till it was too late.

Meantime my son grew up, and was ten years old, when I was obliged to undertake a journey. Before I went, I recommended to my wife, of whom I had no mistrust, the slave and her son ; and prayed her to take care of them during my absence, which was for a whole year. She made use of that time to satisfy her hatred ; she applied herself to magic ; and when she knew enough of that diabolical art, to execute her horrid contrivance. The wretch carried my son to a desolate place, where by her enchantments, she changed my son into a calf, and gave him to my farmer to fatten, pretending she had bought him. Her fury did not stop at this abominable action, but she likewise changed the slave into a cow, and gave her also to my farmer,

At my return, I asked for the mother and child. Your slave, said she, is dead, and for your son, I know not what has become of him ; I have not seen him these two months. I was troubled at the death of the slave ; but my son having only disappeared as she told me, I was in hopes he would return in a little time. However, eight months passed, and I heard nothing of him. When the festival of the great Bairam happened, to celebrate the same. I sent to my farmer for one of the fattest cows to sacrifice, and he sent me one accordingly. The cow which he brought me, was my slave, the unfortunate mother of my

son. I tied her, but as I was going to sacrifice her, she bellowed pitifully, and I could perceive streams of tears run from her eyes. This seemed to me very extraordinary ; and finding myself, in spite of all I could do, seized with pity, I could not find in my heart to give her the blow, but ordered my farmer to get me another.

My wife, who was present, was enraged at my compassion, and opposing herself to an order which disappointed her malice, she cries out : What do you husband ? No, sacrifice that cow ; your farmer has not a finer, nor one better for that use. Out of complaisance to my wife, I came again to the cow, and combatting my pity, which suspended the sacrifice, was going to give her the fatal blow ; when the victim redoubling her tears, and bellowing, disarmed me again. Then I put the mall into the farmer's hand, and bid him take and sacrifice her himself, for her tears and bellowing pierced my heart.

The farmer, less compassionate than I, sacrificed her ; but when he slayed her, found her to be nothing but bones, though to us she seemed very fat. Take her to yourself says I to the farmer, I quit her to you : give her in alms, or which way you will ; and if you have a very fat calf, bring it to me in her stead. I did not inform myself what he did with the cow ; but soon after he took her away, he came with a very fat calf. Though I knew not that the calf was my son, yet I could not forbear being moved at the sight of him. On his part, as soon as he saw me, he made so great an effort to come to me, that he broke his cord, threw himself at my feet, with his head against the ground, as if he would excite my compassion, conjuring me not to be so cruel as to take his life ; and did as much as was possible for him to do, to signify that he was my son.

I was more surprised and affected with this action than with the tears of the cow. I found a tender pity, which made me concern myself for him ; or rather nature did its duty. Go, says I, to the farmer, carry home that calf ; take great care of him, and bring me another in his place immediately.

As soon as my wife heard me say so, she cried out, What do you do, husband ? Take my advice, sacrifice no other calf but that. Wife, says I, I will not sacrifice him ;

I will spare him, and pray dont you oppose it. The wicked woman had no regard to my desire ; she hated my son too much to consent that I should save him. I tied the poor creature, and taking up the fatal knife—Here Scheherazade stopped because she perceived day light.

Then Dinarzade said : Sister, I am enchanted with this story, which bespeaks my attention so agreeably. If the sultan will suffer me to have this day, answers Scheherazade, what I have to tell you to-morrow will divert you abundantly more. Schahriar, curious to know what would become of the old man's son that led the bitch, told the sultanness he would be very glad to hear the end of that story next night.

THE FIFTH NIGHT.

WHEN day began to draw near, Dinarzade put her sister's orders into execution very exactly ; who being awaked, prayed the sultan to allow her to give Dinarzade that satisfaction ; which the prince, who took too much pleasure in the story himself, willingly agreed to.

Sir, then, says Scheherazade, the first old man who led the bitch, continuing the story of the Genie, the two other old men, and the merchant, proceeded thus : I took the knife, says he, and was going to strike it into my son's throat, when turning his eyes, bathed with tears, in a languishing manner towards me, he affected me so, that I had not the strength to sacrifice him ; but let the knife fall, and told my wife positively, that I would have another calf to sacrifice, and not that. She used all endeavors to change my resolution, but I continued firm ; and pacified her a little, by promising that I would sacrifice him against the Bairam next year. Next morning my farmer desired to speak with me alone, and told me ; I came, says he, to tell you a piece of news, for which I hope you will return me thanks. I have a daughter which has some skill in magic. Yesterday, as I carried back the calf which you would not sacrifice, I perceived she laughed when she saw him, and in a moment after fell a weeping. I asked her why she acted two such contrary parts at one and the same time. Father, replied she, the calf you bring back, is our landlord's son : I laughed, for joy, to see him still alive, and I wept at the sacrifice that was made of his mother, who was

changed into a cow. These two metamorphoses were made by the enchantment of our master's wife, who hated the mother and son. This is what my daughter told me, said the farmer, and I came to acquaint you of it.

At these words, the old man adds, I leave you to think, my lord Genie, how much I was surprised : I went immediately to my farmer, to speak with his daughter myself. As soon as I came, I went forthwith to the stall where my son was, who could not answer my embraces, but received them in such a manner, as fully satisfied me he was my son.

The farmer's daughter came. My good maid, says I, can you restore my son to his former shape? Yes, says she, I can. Ah! says I, if you can, I will make you mistress of my fortune. She replied to me, smiling : You are our master, and I know very well what I owe to you : but I cannot restore your son to you, but on conditions. The first is, that you give him for my husband ; and the second is, that you allow me to punish the person who changed him into a calf. For the first, says I, I agree to it with all my heart : nay, I promise you more, a considerable estate for yourself, independent of what I design for my son : In a word, you shall be satisfied for the great service I expect from you. As to what relates to my wife, I also agreed to it ; a person that has been capable of committing such a criminal action, highly deserves punishment ; I leave her to you, only I must pray you not to take her life. I am going, answered she, to treat her as she has treated your son. I agree to it, provided you restore my son to me before-hand.

Then the maid took a vessel full of water, pronounced words over it that I could not understand, and addressing herself to the calf : O calf, says she, if thou wast created by the almighty and sovereign master of the world such as you now appear, continue in that form ; but if created a man, and art changed into a calf by enchantment, return to thy natural shape, by permission of the great creator. As she spoke these words, she threw water upon him, and instantly he recovered his first shape.

My son, my dear son, cried I, immediately embracing him, with such a transport of joy, that I knew not what I

was doing : it is heaven that has sent this young maid to take off the horrible charm by which you were enchanted, and to avenge the injury done you and your mother. I doubt not, but in acknowledgment, you will take your deliverer to wife, as I have promised. He consented to it with joy : but before they were married, she changed my wife to a bitch, as you see here. I desired she should have this shape, rather than another less agreeable, that we might see her in the family without horror.

Since that time, my son has become a widower, and gone to travel ; and it being several years since I heard of him, I am come abroad to enquire after him ; and not being willing to trust anybody with my wife while I should be from home, I thought fit to carry her every where with me. This is the history of myself and this bitch : is it not one of the most wonderful and surprising that can be ? I agree to it, says the Genie, and upon that account I forgive the merchant the third of his crime.

When the first old man, sir, continued the sultanness, had finished his story, the second who led the two black dogs, addressed himself to the Genie, and said to him : I am going to tell you what happened to me, and these two black dogs, you see by me, and I am certain you will say that my story is yet more surprising than that which you have now heard. But when I have told it, I hope you will be pleased to pardon the merchant the second third of his crime. Yes, replied the Genie, provided your story surpass that of the bitch. Then the second old man began in this manner. But as Scheherazade pronounced these words, she saw it was day, and left off speaking.

O heavens ! sister, said Dinarzade, those adventures are very singular. Sister, replied the sultanness, they are not comparable to those which I have to tell you the next night, if the sultan, my lord and master, be so good as to let me live. Schahriar answered nothing to that ; but arose, said his prayers, and went to council, without giving any order against the life of the charming Scheherazade.

THE SIXTH NIGHT.

THE sixth night being come, the sultan and his lady went to bed. Dinarzade awaked at the usual hour, and calling to the sultanness, says : Dear sister, if you be not asleep, I pray you until it be day, to satisfy my curios-

ity, I am impatient to hear the story of the old man and the two black dogs. The sultan consented to it with pleasure, being no less desirous to know the story than Dinarzade; and Scheherazade continued it as follows :

The Story of the Second Old Man and the two Black Dogs.

GREAT prince of the Genies, says the old man, you must know that we are three brothers, I and the two black dogs you see. Our father left each of us when he died one thousand sequins. With that sum we all entered into the same way of living, and became merchants. A little time after we had opened a shop, and my eldest brother, one of those two dogs, resolved to travel, and trade in foreign countries. Upon this design he sold his estate, and bought goods proper for the trade he intended

He went away, and was absent a whole year; at the end of which a poor man, who I thought came to ask alms, presented himself before me in my shop. I said to him : God help you. God help you also, answered he : is it possible you dont know me ? Upon this I looked narrowly, and knew him. Ah ! brother, cried I, - how could I know you in this condition ? I made him come into my house, and asked him concerning his health, and the success of his travels. Dont ask me that question, says he ; when you see me, you see all. It would only renew my grief, to tell you all the particulars of the misfortunes that have befallen me, and reduced me to this condition since I left you.

I immediately shut my shop, and carried him to bath, gave him the best clothes I had by me ; and examining my books, and finding that I had doubled my stock, that is to say, that I was worth two thousand sequins, I gave him one half. With that, says I, brother, you may make up your loss. He joyfully accepted the offer, recovered himself, and we lived together as before.

Some time after, my second brother, who is the other of these two dogs, would also sell his estate. I and his brother did all we could to divert them from it, but could not : he sold it, and, with the money, bought such goods as were suitable to the trade he designed. He joined a caravan, and took a journey. He returned at the end of the year in the same condition as my other brother ; and I, having gained another thousand sequins, gave him them, with which he furnished his shop, and continued to follow his trade.

Some time after my brothers came to me, to propose a trading voyage with them. I immediately rejected their proposal. You have travelled, says I, and what have you gained by it ! Who can assure me, that I can be more successful than you ? They represented to me in vain, all they thought fit, to prevail upon me to engage in that design with them, for I constantly refused. But they importuned me so much, that after having refused their solicitations five whole years, they overcame me at last. But when we were to make preparations for our voyage, and to buy goods necessary to the undertaking, I found they had spent all, and that they had not one farthing left of the thousand sequins I had given each of them. I did not upbraid them in the least with it. On the contrary, my stock being six thousand sequins, I shared the half of it with them, telling them : My brothers, we must venture these three thousand sequins, and hide the rest in some sure place ; that in case our voyage be no more successful than yours was, we may have wherewith to assist us, and to follow our ancient way of living. I gave each of them a thousand sequins, and keeping as much for myself, I buried the rest in a corner of my house. We bought goods, and after having embarked them on board of a vessel, which we freighted between us, we put to sea with a favorable wind. After two months sail—but I see day, says Scheherazade, and must stop here.

Sister, says Dinarzade, this story promises a great deal. I fancy the rest must be more extraordinary. You are not mistaken, says the sultanness, and if the sultan will allow me to tell it to you, I am persuaded it will very much divert you. Schahriar got up as he did the day before, without explaining his mind ; but gave no orders to the grand vizier to kill his daughter.

THE SEVENTH NIGHT.

WHEN the seventh night drew near a close, Dinarzade awakened the sultanness, and prayed her to continue the story of the second old man. I will, answered Scheherazade, provided the sultan my lord and master, dont oppose it. Not at all, says Schahriar, I am so far from opposing it, that I desire you earnestly to go on with it.

To resume the thread of my story, says Schcherazade, you must know, that the old man who led the dogs continued

his story to the Genie, the other two old men, and the merchant, thus ; In short, says he, after two months sail, we arrived happily at a port, where we landed, and had a great vent for our goods. I especially sold mine so well, that I gained two to one ; and we bought commodities of that country, to transport and sell in our own.

When we were ready to embark, in order to return, I met upon the bank of the sea, a lady handsome enough but poorly clad. She came up to me presently, kissed my hand, prayed me with the greatest earnestness imaginable to marry her, and take her along with me. I made some difficulty to agree to it ; but she said so many things to persuade me, that I ought to make no objections to her poverty, and that I should have all the reason in the world to be satisfied with her conduct, that I yielded. I ordered fit apparel to be made for her ; and after having married her, according to form, I took her on board, and we set sail. During the navigation, I found the wife I had taken had so many good qualities, that I loved her more and more every day. In the mean time my brothers, who had not managed their affairs so well as I did mine, envied my prosperity ; and their fury carried them so far as to conspire against my life ; so that one night, when my wife and I were asleep, they threw us both into the sea.

My wife was a fairy, and by consequence a Genie. You know well she could not be drowned : but for me, it's certain I should have been lost without her help. I had scarce fallen into the water, till she took me up and carried me to an island. When it was day, the fairy said to me : You see, husband, that by saving your life, I have not rewarded you ill for your kindness to me. You must know I am a fairy, and that being upon the bank of the sea when you were going to embark, I found I had a strong inclination for you. I had a mind to try your goodness, and presented myself before you in the disguise wherein you saw me. You have dealt very generously with me, and I am mighty glad of having found an opportunity of testifying my acknowledgments to you. But I am incensed against your brothers ; and nothing will satisfy me but their lives.

I listened to this discourse of the fairy with admiration : I thanked her as well as I could for her great kindness to me.

But madam, says I, for my brothers, I beg you to pardon them. Whatever cause they have given me, I am not cruel enough to desire their death. I told her the particulars of what I had done for them, which increased her indignation so, she cried out : I must immediately fly after these ungrateful traitors, and take speedy vengeance on them. I will sink their vessel, and throw them into the bottom of the sea. No, my good lady, replied I, for the sake of heaven dont do so ; moderate your anger ; consider that they are my brothers, and that we must do good for evil.

I pacified her by these words ; and as soon as I had spoke them, she transported me in an instant from the island where we were, to the roof of my own house, which was terrassed, and disappeared in a moment. I went down, opened the doors, and dug up the three thousand sequins I had hid. I went afterwards to the place where my shop was ; which I also opened, and was complimented by the merchants, my neighbors, on my return. When I went to my house, I perceived two black dogs, which came to me in a very submissive manner. I knew not what it meant, and was much astonished at it. But the fairy, who appeared immediately, says to me : Husband, dont be surprised to see these two black dogs by you ; they are your two brothers. I was troubled at these words, and asked her by what power they were transformed. It was I that did it, says she : at least I gave commission to one of my sisters to do it, who at the same time sunk their ship. You have lost the goods you had on board, but I will make it up to you another way. As to your two brothers, I have condemned them to remain five years in that shape. Their perfidiousness too well deserves such a penance. And in short, after having told me where I might hear of her, she disappeared.

Now the five years being out, I am travelling in quest of her ; and as I passed this way, I met this merchant and the good old man that led the bitch, and sat down by them. This is my history, O prince of Genies ! dont you think it very extraordinary ? I own it, says the Genie, and upon that account remit the merchant the other third of his crime, which he had committed against me.

As soon as the second old man had finished his story, the third began, and made the like demand of the Genie, with

the two first, that is to say, to pardon the merchant the other third of his crime, provided the story he had to tell him exceeded the other two he had already heard, for singular event. The Genie made him the same promise he had done the other two. Harken then, says the old man to him. But day appears, says Scheherazade : I must stop here.

THE EIGHTH NIGHT.

SIR, replies the saltaness, the third old man told his story to the Genie. I cannot tell it to you, because it is not come to my knowledge. But I know that it did so much exceed the two former stories, in the variety of the wonderful adventures, that the Genie was astonished at it ; and no sooner heard the end of it, but he said to the third old man : I remit the other third part of the merchant's crime upon account of your story. He is very much obliged to all three of you, for having delivered him out of his danger by your stories, without which he had not now been in the world. And having spoke thus, he disappeared, to the great contentment of the company.

The merchant failed not to give his three deliverers the thanks he owed them. They rejoiced to see him out of danger. After which he bid them adieu, and each of them went on his way. The merchant returned to his wife and children, and passed the rest of his days with them in peace.

N. B. For the advantage of the reader, take notice, that Scheherazade goes on now always without being interrupted hereafter.

The Story of ALADDIN, or the WONDERFUL LAMP.

IN the capital of the kingdom of China, there lived a taylor, whose name was Mustapha, who was so poor, that he could hardly subsist himself and family, which consisted of a wife and son, by his daily labor.

His son, called Aladdin, had been brought up after a careless and very idle manner, and by that means contracted many vicious habits. Mustapha chastised him, but Aladdin was incorrigible ; and his father, with grief fell into a fit of sickness, and died in a few months after. Aladdin, who was now no longer restrained by the fear of a father, cared little for his mother, and was never out of the streets from his companions. This trade he drove on till he was almost fifteen years old, without thinking in the

least howe to gt his bread ; when one day as he was playing, according to custom, in the street, with his blackguard troops, a stranger passed by, who stood still to observe him.

This stranger was a famous magician. He went up to him, and taking him aside from his comrades, said to him : Child, was not your father called Mustapha, the taylor ? Yes, sir, answered Aladdin, but he has been dead a long time. At these words the African magician threw his arms about Aladdin's neck, and kissed him several times, with tears in his eyes. Aladdin, who observed his tears, asked him what made him cry ? Alas ! my son, cried the African magician, with a sigh, how can I forbear. I am your uncle ; your good father was my own brother. Then he asked Aladdin where his mother lived ; and as soon as Aladdin had informed him, he gave him a handful of small money, saying to him : Go, my brave boy, to your mother, and give my love and service to her, and tell her I will come and see her to-morrow.

As soon as the African magician left his new adopted nephew, Aladdin ran to his mother, overjoyed at the money. Mother, said he, had I ever an uncle ? No, child, replied his mother, you have no uncle, either by your father's side or mine. It is no matter for that, answered Aladdin, I am just come from a gentleman, who says he is my uncle by my father's side, assuring me that he was his brother. He cried and kissed me, when I told him my father was dead. And to shew you that what I tell you is truth, added he, pulling out the money, see here what he has given me. The next day Aladdin's uncle found him playing in the streets again with his companions, and embracing him as before, put two pieces of gold into his hand, and said to him, Carry this, child to your mother, and tell her that I'll come and sup with her to-night, and bid her get something for us to eat ; but first shew me the house where you live. After Aladdin had shewn the African magician the house, he carried the pieces of gold to his mother ; and when he had told her his uncle's intentions, she went out and brought provisions. The magician came in, loaded with wine, and all sorts of fruit, which he brought as a desert. After that the African magician had given what he had brought into Aladdin's hands, he saluted his mother, and said, my good sister, be not surprised at your never having

seen me all the time that you have been married to my brother Mustapha. I have been forty years absent from this country, which is my native place, as well as my brother's, and during that time have travelled into the Indies, Persia, Arabia, and Egypt, and have resided in most of the finest towns in those countries ; and afterwards crossed over into Africa, where I made a long abode. At last, as it is natural for a man to remember his native country, relations and acquaintance, I was very desirous to see mine again, and to embrace my dear brother, for whom I always had a brotherly love and friendship. I observed his features in the face of my nephew your son, and distinguished him from among a number of children, with whom he was at play ; and he can tell you how I received the most melancholy news that ever reached my ears. But God be praised for all things, it is a comfort to me to find him again in a son, who has his most remarkable features.

The African magician, perceiving that Aladdin's mother began to weep at the remembrance of her husband changed the discourse, and turning towards Aladdin, asked his name. I am called Aladdin, said he. Well, Aladdin, replied the magician, what business do you follow ? Are you of any trade ?

At this question Aladdin was a little dashed, when his mother made answer ; Aladdin is an idle fellow, his father when alive strove all he could to teach him his trade, but could not do it ; and since his death, notwithstanding all I can say to him, he does nothing but idle away his time in the streets as you saw him, for my part, I am resolved one of these days to turn him out of doors and let him provide for himself. At these words Aladdin's mother burst into tears, and the magician said, This is not well, nephew, you must think of helping yourself, and getting your livelihood. There are many sort of trades ; consider which you have the greatest inclination to. Perhaps you do not like your father's trade. Come do not disguise your sentiments from me. I will endeavor to help you. I will carry you along with me to-morrow, and clothe you as rich and handsome as the top merchants of the city, and after that we will think of taking a shop.

Aladdin's mother served up supper, at which they talked of several indifferent matters ; and then the magician, who

saw that the night was pretty far advanced, took his leave of the mother and son, and retired. He came again the next day as he had promised, and took Aladdin with him to a great merchant, who sold all sorts of habits ready made, and all sorts of fine stuffs, and bid Aladdin choose those he liked best. Aladdin, charmed with the liberality of his new uncle, made choice of one; and the magician immediately bought it, and all things proper to it.

When Aladdin found himself so handsomely equipped, he returned his uncle all the thanks imaginable, who on the other hand promised never to forsake him, but always to take him along with him; which he did to the most resorted places in the city, and particularly where the most topping merchants keep their shops. When he brought him into the streets where they sold the richest stuffs, and finest lincens, he said to Aladdin, As you are soon to be a merchant as well as those here, it is proper you should frequent these shops and be acquainted with them. Then he shewed him the largest and finest mosques, and carried him to the khans or inns, where the merchants and travellers lodged, and afterwards to the sultan's palace, where he had free access, and at last brought him to his own khan, where meeting with some merchants he had got acquainted with since his arrival, he gave them a treat to bring them and his pretended nephew acquainted.

This treat lasted till night, when Aladdin would have taken his leave of his uncle to go home; but the magician would not let him go by himself, but conducted him safe to his mother, who, as soon as she saw him so finely dressed, was transported with joy, and bestowed a thousand blessings on the magician for being at so great an expense upon her child. Aladdin, replied the magician, is a good boy, and minds me well enough, and I believe we shall do very well; but I am sorry for one thing, which is, that I cannot perform to-morrow what I promised, because it is Friday, and the shops will be shut up, and therefore we cannot hire one but must let it alone till Saturday. But I will call on him to-morrow, and take him a walking into the gardens, where people of the best fashion generally walk; perhaps he has never seen these diversions.

Aladdin arose early the next morning, and dressed himself to be ready against his uncle called for him. As soon

as he perceived him coming, he told his mother, took his leave of her, and ran to meet him. The magician caressed Aladdin, when he came to meet him. Come along, my brave boy, said he, and I'll shew you fine things. Then he led him to one of the gates of the city, to some fine large houses, or rather palaces, to each of which belonged beautiful gardens, into which any body might go; and at every house he came to, he asked Aladdin if he did not think it fine? and Aladdin was as ready to answer according to his opinion. By this artifice, the cunning magician got Aladdin a pretty way into the country; and as he had a mind to carry him farther, to execute a design he had, he took an opportunity to sit down in one of the gardens, by a fountain of clear water, pretending to be tired, the better to rest Aladdin. Come nephew, said he, you must be weary as well as me; let us refresh ourselves, and we shall be better able to walk.

After they sat down, the magician pulled out a handkerchief of cakes and sweetmeats, which he provided on purpose. During this short repast he exhorted his nephew to break himself of childish plays, and endeavor to keep mens company and improve by their conversation; for you will soon be at man's estate, and must use yourself to discourse gravely. They had eat as much as they wanted, and got up and pursued their walk through the gardens, and crossed the country till they almost came to the mountains. At last they came between two mountains, of a moderate height and equal size, divided by a little valley, which was the place the magician intended to bring Aladdin, to put in execution a design which had brought him from Africa. We will go no farther said he to Aladdin; I will shew you here some things very extraordinary, and what nobody ever saw before; but while I strike fire do you gather up all the loose dry sticks you can see, to light a fire with.

Aladdin found so many dry sticks, that before the magician had lighted a match, he had gathered up a great heap. The magician presently set them on fire, and in a moment they were all in a blaze: the magician threw a perfume which he had into it, which raised a great cloud of smoke, then turning himself about, he pronounced several magic words which Aladdin did not understand. At the same time the earth trembled a little, and opened just before the

magician and Aladdin, and discovered a stone about half a yard square, with a brass ring fixed in the middle to raise it by. Aladdin was so frightened at what he saw, that he would have run away, but as he was to be serviceable to the magician he caught hold of him, and gave him such a blow on his cheek, that he knocked him down. Poor Aladdin got up again trembling, and with tears in his eyes, said to the magician, What have I done uncle, to be treated after this manner? I have my reasons for it, replied the magician, know then that under this stone there is hid a treasure which is destined to be yours, and which will make you richer than the greatest monarch in the world; therefore no other person is permitted to touch this stone, and to pull it up, and go in; for I am forbid setting foot into this treasure when it is opened: so you must without fail punctually execute what I tell you; for it is a matter of great consequence both to you and me.

Aladdin amazed at all he saw and heard the magician say of the treasure which was to make him happy forever, forgot what was past, and said to the magician; Well uncle what is to be done? command me, I am ready to obey you. I am overjoyed, said the magician, embracing him, to see you act so prudently; here, take hold of the ring, and lift up that stone. Aladdin did as the magician bid him, raised the stone with great ease, and laid it by.

When the stone was pulled up, there appeared a cave of about three or four feet deep, and steps to go down lower. Observe, Aladdin, said the magician, what I am going to say to you. Go down into the cave, and when you are at the bottom of those steps, you will find a door open, which will lead you into a large and vaulted place, divided into three great halls, in each of which you'll see four large brass vessels placed on either side, full of gold and silver: but take care you do not meddle with them. Before you go into the first hall be sure you tuck up your gown and wrap it well about you, and then go through the second into the third without stopping in the least. Above all things, have a care that you do not touch the walls, so much as with your clothes: for if you do you die immediately. At the end of the third hall you will find a door which leads into a garden planted with fine trees, loaded with delicious fruit: walk directly across the garden by a path, which will carry

you to five steps that will bring you upon a terrace-walk, where you will see a niche before you, and in that niche a lighted lamp ; take the lamp down and put it out ; and when you have thrown away the wick and poured out the liquor, put it in your breast and bring it to me. Do not be afraid that the liquor will spoil your clothes, for it is not oil, and the lamp will be dry as soon as it is thrown out. If you have a mind to any fruit in the garden you may gather as much as you please.

After these words the magician pulled a ring off his finger, and put it upon one of Aladdin's, telling him that it was a preservation against all misfortunes, while he observed what was prescribed to him. After this instruction, he said : Go boldly, child, and we shall be rich all our lives.

Aladdin jumped into the cave, went down the steps, and found the three halls just as the African magician had described them. He went through them with as much precaution as the fear of death could give him, and observed all he was told very carefully ; and without stopping, crossed the garden, took down the lamp, threw out the wick and liquor, and put it in his bosom as his uncle bid him. But as he came down from the terrace again, he stopped in the garden to observe the fruit, which he had only a glimpse of in crossing it. All the trees were laden with extraordinary fine fruits, of different colors. The white were pearls ; the clear and transparent diamonds ; the deepest red rubies ; the paler bastard rubies ; the green, emeralds ; the blue, turquoises ; the purple, amethysts ; and those that were upon the yellow cast, sapphires, &c. All the fruits were very large, and so beautiful, that nothing was ever seen like them. Aladdin was so pleased with the variety of colors, and the beauty and extraordinary size of the fruit, that he had a mind to gather some of every sort, and accordingly filled his pockets, and some he wrapped up in the skirts of his gown, and crammed his breast full.

Aladdin having thus loaded himself with riches he knew not the value of, returned through the three halls with the same precaution, and made all the haste he could, that he might not make his uncle wait, and soon arrived at the mouth of the cave, where the magician was waiting with impatience. As soon as Aladdin saw him, he cried out :

Pray, uncle, lend me your hand, to help me up. Give me the lamp first, replied the magician ; it will be troublesome to you. Indeed, uncle, answered Aladdin. I cannot now ; it is not troublesome to me ; but I will as soon as I am up. The magician was so obstinate, that he would have the lamp before he would help him up ; and Aladdin, who had encumbered himself so much with his fruit, that he could not get at it, refused to give it him till he was out of the cave. The magician, provoked at this obstinate refusal of the lad, grew into a terrible passion, and threw a little of his perfume into the fire, pronounced two magical words, the stone moved into its place, and the earth closed again in the same manner as it opened at their arrival before. .

This magician, after forty years experience in enchantments, works of necromancy, fumigation, and the reading of magic books, had found out that the possession of a wonderful lamp concealed in a subterraneous abode in the midst of China, would render him more powerful than the greatest prince in the world, and had come from Africa in quest of it. But though he had a certain knowledge of the place where this lamp was, yet he was not permitted to take it himself, nor to enter the subterraneous place where it was, but must receive it from the hands of another person. For this reason he addressed himself to Aladdin, whom he looked upon as a young lad void of friends, and fit to serve his purpose ; resolving, as soon as he could get the lamp into his hands, to sacrifice poor Aladdin to his avarice and wickedness.

When the African magician saw that his great hopes were frustrated for ever, he returned the same day for Africa. As for Aladdin, who never in the least suspected this base usage from his pretended uncle, after all his caresses, and what he had done for him, his surprise is more easily to be imagined than expressed by words. As soon as he found he was so buried alive, he cried, and called out to his uncle, to tell him he was ready to give him the lamp, but all in vain ; he went to the bottom of the steps, with a design to get into the garden, where it was light ; but the door, which was opened before by enchantment, was now shut. Then he sat down on the steps, without any hopes of ever seeing the light again, and in the expectation of a lingering death.

Aladdin remained in this state two days, without either eating or drinking, and on the third looked upon death as inevitable. Then clasping his hands, with an entire resignation to the will of God, he said : The great and high God alone is all powerful. In this action of joining his hands, he rubbed the ring which the magician gave him, and which he had never thought of, and knew not the use of, and immediately a Genie of an enormous size, and frightful appearance, rose out of the earth, and said : What wouldst thou have with me ? I am ready to obey thee as thy slave, and the slave of all who possess that ring on your finger ; I and the other slaves of that ring. Aladdin made him answer without hesitation : Whoever thou art, deliver me from this place. He had no sooner spoke these words, but the earth opened, and he found himself where the magician made his conjuration. Then turning towards the town, he perceived it in the midst of fine gardens, and knew the way back to it ; and then returning God thanks for his being alive so contrary to his expectation, made the best of his way home. When he got within doors, what with the joy to see his mother, and his faintness for want of sustenance for three days, he fell into a swoon, and remained so for a long time. His mother who had given him over for lost, seeing him in this condition, omitted nothing to bring him too again. As soon as he revived, the first words he spoke, were : Pray, mother, give me something to eat, for I have not put a morsel of any thing to my mouth these three days. His mother brought what she had, and set it before him. When he had done, he said to her : I can't help complaining of you, for abandoning me so easily to the discretion of a man whose design it was to kill me.

Then Aladdin began to tell his mother all that had happened, from the Friday when the magician took him to see the palaces and gardens about the town. In short, he did not miss the least circumstance of what he saw in crossing the three halls, and the garden, and taking the lamp, which he pulled out of his bosom, and shewed to his mother, with the beautiful fruit he had gathered in the garden ; which she who was as ignorant as her son, as to the knowledge of jewels, looked upon as trifles. When he had made an end of his story, he said to his mother : This is my adventures, and the dangers I have been exposed to since you saw me.

Aladdin's mother heard this surprising and wonderful relation, with so much patience, as not to interrupt him, notwithstanding it could be no small affliction ; and when Aladdin had quite finished his story, she let fly a thousand injurious names at this vile impostor. Without doubt, child, he is a magician, and they are plagues to the world, and by their enchantments and sorceries, have commerce with the devil. Bless God for preserving you from his wicked designs, for your death would have been inevitable, had you not called upon him, and implored his assistance.

Aladdin, who had not one wink of sleep while he was in the subterraneous abode, slept heartily all that night, and never waked till late the next morning, when the first thing he said to his mother, was, he wanted something to eat, and that she could not do him a greater favor than to give him his breakfast. Alas ! child, said she, I have not a bit of bread to give you ; you eat up all the provisions I had in the house yesterday. But have a little patience ; I have a little cotton which I have spun, I'll go and sell it and buy bread and something for dinner. Mother, replied Aladdin, keep your cotton against another time, and give me the lamp I brought home with me yesterday : I'll go and sell it.

Aladdin's mother took the lamp, and said to her son : Here it is ; but it is very dirty ; if it was cleaned a little, I believe it would bring something more. To that end she took a little fine sand and water to clean it, but had no sooner began to rub it but in an instant a hideous Genie of a gigantic size appeared before them, and said in a voice like thunder : What wouldst thou have ? I am ready to obey thee as thy slave, and the slave of all those who have that lamp in their hands ; I and the other slaves of that lamp.

Aladdin's mother was not able to speak at the sight of this frightful Genie, but fell into a swoon ; when Aladdin, who had once before seen such another, without losing time, snatched the lamp out of his mother's hands, and said to the Genie : I am hungry ; bring me something to eat presently. The Genie disappeared immediately, and in an instant returned with a large silver bason on his head with twelve covered plates of the same metal, which cou-

tained some nice and excellent meats : six white loaves on two other plates, and two bottles of wine, and two glasses in each hand. All these things he laid upon a table, and disappeared ; and this was done before Aladdin's mother came out of her swoon.

His mother was very much surprised to see them, O child ! said she, to Aladdin, to whom are we obliged for this great plenty and liberality ? Has the sultan been made acquainted with our poverty, and had compassion on us ? It's no matter, mother, said Aladdin, sit down and eat ; for you have almost as much need of a good breakfast as myself ; when we are done I'll tell you. Accordingly both mother and son sat down, and eat with as good stomachs as the table was well furnished. But all the time Aladdin's mother could not forbear looking at, and admiring the bason and plates, though she could not well tell whether they were silver or any other metal, so little a judge were she and her son of such matters.

When Aladdin's mother had taken away and set by what was left, she went and sat down by her son on the sofa, Aladdin, said she, I expect now that you will satisfy my impatience, and tell me exactly what passed between the Genie and you, while I was in a swoon, which he presently complied with.

By the next night they had eat all the provisions the Genie brought, and the next day Aladdin who could not bear the thoughts of hunger, took one of the plates under his coat, and went out early to sell it, and addressing himself to a Jew, whom he met in the streets, and pulling out the plate, asked him if he would buy it. The cunning Jew examined the plate, and no sooner found that it was good silver, but he asked Aladdin how much he asked for it. Aladdin who knew not the worth of it, told him he would trust to his honor and generosity. The Jew was somewhat confounded at his plain-dealing, and was doubtful whether Aladdin had understood the value of what he offered him to sell ; however he took a peice of gold out of his purse, and gave it him though it was but the sixtieth part of the worth of the plate. Aladdin took the money very eagerly ; but in going towards home he called at a baker's, bought a loaf, changed his money and went home.

and gave his mother the rest, who went and bought other necessary provisions, which lasted them some time. After this manner they lived till Aladdin had sold the twelve plates, one at a time to a Jew for the same money; when he had sold the last plate he had recourse to the bason, which weighed ten times as much as a plate, and would have carried it to his old purchaser, but that it was too large and cumbersome; therefore he was obliged to bring him home with him to his mother, where after the Jew had looked upon it, he gave him ten pieces of gold for it.

They lived on this in a frugal manner, a good while; Aladdin, who had been used to an idle life, left off playing with young lads of his own age, and spent his time in walking about, and discoursing with people with whom he was acquainted. Sometimes he would stop at the most topping merchant's shops, where people of distinction met for the enefit of conversation, and listen to their discourse, by which means he gained a little knowledge of the world.

When all the money was spent, Aladdin had resourse again to the lamp. He took it in his hand, looked for the same place his mother had rubbed it with the sand, and rubbed it also, the Genie immediately appeared, and said, what wouldst thou have? I am ready to obey thee, as thy slave. I am hungry, said Aladdin, bring me something to eat. The Genie disappeared, and presently returned with a bason, and the same number of covered plates, &c. and set them down, and vanished again; when they had eat as much as they wanted, she set enough by to last them two or three days.

As soon as Aladdin found their provisions were spent, he took one of the plates and went to look for his Jew chapman again; but passing by a gold-smith's shop, who had the character of a fair and honest man, the goldsmith perceiving him, called to him, and said, my lad, I have often observed you to go by, loaded as you are at present; if you have any thing to dispose of that lies in my way, I will give you the full worth of it; and if it be what I dont deal in, I'll direct you to another person who will not cheat you.

The hopes of getting more money for his plate, induced Aladdin to pull it from under his coat, and shew it to the goldsmith. The goldsmith took a pair of scales, weighed

the plate, and after he had told Aladdin how much an ounce of fine silver was worth, he demonstrated to him that his plate worth sixty pieces of gold, which he paid him that minute. Aladdin thanked him, and never after went to any other person, and had as much for them as they came to.

Though Aladdin and his mother had an inexhaustible treasure in that lamp, and might have had whatever they had a mind to, yet they lived with the same frugality as before, only that Aladdin went more neat, but for his mother she wore no clothes but what she earned by spinning cotton. After their manner of living, we may easily suppose that the full value of the plates and bason was sufficient to maintain them some years.

During this time Aladdin, to accomplish himself, and understand the world, very much frequented the great shops where they sold clothes of gold and silver, fine stuffs, silks and linens, and often entered into conversation with the best of people. Among other shops, he visited those of the top jewellers, and got a pretty good acquaintance among them; by which means he came to know that the fine fruit he had gathered, when he took the lamp, were not coloured glass, but jewels of extraordinary value, for as he had seen all sorts of jewels bought and sold in their shops, but none so beautiful or as large as his, he found instead of glass, he possessed an inestimable treasure: but was so prudent as not to say any thing of it, even to his mother.

One day as Aladdin was walking about town, he heard an order of the sultan's published, for all people to shut up their shops and houses, and keep within doors, while the princess Badroulboudour, (which is to say, the full moon of full moons) the sultan's daughter went to the baths and back again.

This public order inspired Aladdin with a great curiosity to see the princess; so he got behind the door of the baths, and then he could not fail of seeing her face. He had not waited long before the princess came; and he could see her plainly without being seen. She was attended by a great crowd of ladies, slaves and eunuchs. When she came within three or four yards of the doors of the baths, she drew aside her veil, and gave him an opportunity of a good look at her.

Till then Aladdin, who had never seen any woman's face but his mother's who was old, and never could boast of any such features, thought that all women were like her; and could hear people talk of the most surprising beauties, without being the least moved.

But as soon as he had seen the princess, his sentiments were much changed, and his heart could not withstand those inclinations. The princess was the most lovely, beautiful brown woman in the world! in a word, all the features of her face were regular and beautiful! after the princess had passed by him, and got into the baths, he remained some time astonished and confounded; but at last considering the princess had passed him, and that when she returned from the bath her back would be towards him, and she veiled, he resolved to quit his post and go home. But when he came there he could not conceal his uneasiness so well, but that his mother perceived it, and asked what happened to make him so? he returned her no answer, but sat carelessly down on the sofa, and remained in the same condition, full of the image of the charming Badroulboudour. His mother, who was dressing supper, pressed him no more till after supper. she asked him again why he was so melancholy? but could have no other satisfaction but that he would go to bed.

Next day Aladdin told his mother how he saw the princess, and that he was resolved to ask her in marriage. Aladdin's mother gave a great deal of attention to what her son said; but when he talked of asking the princess Badroulboudour in marriage from the sultan, she could not help bursting out into a loud laughter. Aladdin would have gone on with his discourse, but she interrupted him. Alas! child, says she, what are you thinking of? for you talk as if you were mad!

I can assure you mother, replied he, that I am not mad, but in my right senses; I foresaw that you would reproach me foolishly. Indeed son, replied the mother seriously, I cannot help telling you that you have quite forgot yourself; and if you would put this resolution into execution, I do not see who you can get to propose it. Yourself, replied he immediately. I go to the sultan! answered the mother amazed; upon my word, I shall take care how I engage in such an affair. Why who are you son, continu-

ed she, that you can have the impudence to think of the sultan's daughter? have you forgot that your father was but a poor taylor, and that I am but of a mean extract? and dont you know that sultans never marry their daughters but to princes or sultans like themselves?

Mother, said he, I have already told you that I foresaw all you have said, and can say: and tell you again, that none of your discourse or remonstrances shall make me change my mind. The good old woman was very much embarrassed, when she found him so obstinate as to persist so strongly in so foolish an undertaking. My dear child, is true I am your mother, who brought you into the world, and there's nothing in the world that's reasonable but I would do for you. How can I open my lips to offer such a proposal before his majesty, and his whole court? What have you done for your prince or country? how have you distinguished yourself? and if you have done nothing to merit so great a favor, with what assurance shall I ask it? Besides, here is another reason which you do not think of; which is, nobody goes to ask a favor of the sultan without a present. But to what you say, that I have nothing fit to present him with, dont you think, mother, that what I brought with me that day on which I was delivered from an inevitable death, may be an agreeable present? I mean those things you and I took for colored glasses. You have a large dish go and fetch it.

Aladdin's mother fetched the china dish, and he took the jewels out of the two boxes in which he kept them, and placed them according to his fancy in the dish. But the brightness and lustre they had in the day time, and the variety of colors, so dazzled the eyes both of mother and son, that they were in the most agreeable concern; though his mother, understanding the beauty and lustre of the present, did not believe it so valuable as her son esteemed it. She thought it might, nevertheless, be agreeable to the sultan, and found that she could not have any thing to say against it; but was very uneasy at Aladdin's demand in favor of his present. She used a great many arguments to endeavor to make him change his mind: but the charms of the princess Badroulboudour had made too great an impression on his heart, to be persuaded from it.

Dont let us be uneasy, mother, replied he: let us see

how the sultan receives, and what answer he gives you. When she was ready, she took the jewels and sat forward for the sultan's palace, to the great joy and satisfaction of Aladdin. When she came to the gates, the grand vizier, and the lords of the court were just gone, but notwithstanding the crowd of people, she got into the divan. She placed herself just before the sultan, grand vizier, and the great lords, who sat in that council. Several causes were called, according to their order, and pleaded and judged till the time the divan generally broke up, when the sultan rising, took his leave, and returned to his apartment.

Aladdin's mother seeing the sultan rise and retire, and all the people go away, judged that he would not come again that day, and so she resolved to go home. When Aladdin saw her returned with the present he designed for the sultan, he knew not at first what to think of the success of this affair; and in the fear he was in lest she should bring ill news, he had not courage enough to ask her, till the mother who had never set foot in the sultan's palace before, and knew not what was every day practising there, freed him from his embarrassment; and said to him with a great deal of simplicity, son I have seen the sultan's palace, and am very well persuaded he has seen me too; for I placed myself just before him, but he was so much taken with all those who talked on all sides of him, that I pitied him, and wondered at his patience to hear them. She went six times afterwards on the days appointed, placed herself directly before the sultan, but with as little success as the first time, and might have perhaps come a thousand times to as little purpose, if the sultan himself had not taken particular notice of her. and before the grand vizier had made his report of affairs; the sultan perceived her, and compassionating her for having waited so long, he said to the vizier, before you enter upon any business, remember the woman I spoke to you about: bid her come nigher, and let us hear and dispatch her first. The grand vizier immediately called the chief of the huissirs, and pointing to her, bid him go to that woman, and tell her to come to the sultan.

The chief of the huissirs went to Aladdin's mother, and by a sign he gave her, she followed him to the foot of the sultan's throne. Aladdin's mother, by the example of a

great many others whom she saw salute the sultan, bowed her head down to the tapestry, which covered the steps of the throne, and remained in that posture till the sultan bid her arise ; which she had no sooner done, than the sultan said to her : Good woman, I have observed you to stand a long time, from the beginning to the rising of the divan : what is your business ?

At these words, Aladdin's mother prostrated herself a second time ; and when she got up again, said : Monarch of monarchs, before I tell your majesty the extraordinary, and almost incredible affair, which brings me before your throne I beg of you to pardon the boldness, or rather to say, impudence of the demand I am about to make, which is so uncommon, that I tremble, and am ashamed to propose it to my sultan. I'll forgive you, be it what it will, and no hurt shall come to you. Speak boldly. When Aladdin's mother had taken all those precautions for fear of the sultan's anger, she told him faithfully how Aladdin had seen the princess Badroolboudour, the violent love that fatal sight had inspired him with, the declaration he made to her of it when he came home, and the representations she made to dissuade him from a passion no less injurious, said she, to your majesty, as sultan, than to the princess. But, continued she, my son, instead of taking my advice, obstinately persevered in it, and threatened me with some action of despair, if I refused to come and ask her in marriage of your majesty, which, after an extreme violence on myself I was forced to comply with ; for which I beg of your majesty once more to pardon not only me, but forgive Aladdin, my son, for entertaining such a rash thought.

The sultan hearkened to this discourse with mildness, without shewing the least anger or passion ; but before he gave her an answer, he asked her what she had tied up in the napkin ? Upon which she unloosed it, and presented the dish. The Sultan's surprise was inexpressible, when he saw so many considerable, large, beautiful, and valuable jewels in one dish. He was struck with so great admiration, that he was for some time motionless. At last, when he had recovered himself, he received the present from her hand, and crying out in a transport of joy, how rich and beautiful is this ! Having admired and handled some of the jewels, he turned to his grand vizier, and shewing him the dish, said,

Look here, and confess that your eyes never beheld any thing so rich and beautiful before. Well, continued the sultan, what sayest thou to such a present ? Is it not worthy of my daughter ? and ought I not to bestow her on one who values her at so great a price ?

These words put the grand vizier into a great agitation. Thereupon going up to him, and whispering him in the ear, said to him : Sir, I cannot disown but the present is worthy of the princess ; but I beg of your majesty to grant me three months, before you come to a resolution. I hope before that time, my son, on whom you have had the bounty to look favorably, will be able to make a nobler present than Aladdin, who is an entire stranger to your majesty.

The sultan, though he was persuaded that it was not possible for the vizier to provide so considerable a present for his son to make to the princess, yet he hearkened to him, and granted him that favor. So turning about to Aladdin's mother, he said to her : Good woman, go home, and tell your son that I agree to the proposal you have made ; but I cannot marry the princess, my daughter, till some furniture I design for her be got ready, which cannot be finished these three months ; but at the expiration of that time come again.

Aladdin's mother returned home, and told him how affairs went. When two of the three months were past, his mother one evening going to light the lamp and finding no oil in the bottle, went out to buy some ; and when she came into the great streets, found them all illuminated, the shops shut up, and garnished with boughs, every body striving to shew their zeal by their rejoicings. The streets were crowded with officers in their habits of ceremony, mounted on horses richly caparisoned, each attended by a great many footmen. Aladdin's mother asked the oil-merchant what was the meaning of all those things. Alas ! good woman, said he, from whence came you, that you don't know that the grand vizier's son is to marry the princess Badroulboudour, the sultan's daughter, to night ? She will presently return from the baths, and those officers you see there, are to assist at the cavalcade to the palace, where the ceremony is to be solemnized.

This was news enough for Aladdin's mother. She ran home in great haste ; and when she came to the son, who

little suspected any such thing happened, was quite out of breath. Child, cried she, you are quite undone ! You depended upon the sultan's fine promises, but there's nothing in them. At these words Aladdin was alarmed. Mother, replied he, how do you know the sultan has been guilty of a breach of promise ? This night, answered the mother, the grand vizier's son is to marry the princess.

At this account Aladdin was quite thunder-struck, till a secret motive of jealousy soon roused his spirit, and he bethought himself of the lamp. When Aladdin had got into his chamber, he took the lamp, and rubbing it in the same place as before, immediately the Genie appeared, and said to him : What wouldst thou have ? I am ready to obey thee as thy slave. Hear me, said Aladdin : thou hast hitherto brought me whatever I have wanted, as to provisions ; but now I have business of the greatest importance for thee to execute. I have demanded the princess Badroulboudour in marriage of the sultan, her father ; he promised her to me, but only asked three months ; and instead of keeping that promise, has this night, before the expiration of that time, married her to the grand vizier's son. What I ask of thee is, that as soon as the new bride and bridegroom are in bed, that thou bring them hither in their bed. Master, replied the Genie, I'll obey thee.

In the meantime, every thing was prepared with the greatest magnificence in the sultan's palace, to celebrate the princess' nuptials ; and the evening was spent with great rejoicing, till midnight ; when the grand vizier's son on a signal given him by the chief of the princess's eunuchs, slipping from the company, was introduced by that officer into the princess's apartment, where the nuptial bed was prepared. No sooner was the door shut, than the Genie took up the bed, and transported it to Aladdin's chamber, where he set it down.

Aladdin who waited impatiently for that moment, could not bear to see the vizier's son in bed with the princess. Take this new bridegroom, said he to the Genie, and put him in an house office, and come again to-morrow morning. The Genie took the vizier's son out of bed, and carried him in his shirt whither he was bid, and after he had breathed upon him, which prevented his stirring, he left him.

Though Aladdin had a great love for the princess, he talked little to her when they were alone, but only said, with a passionate air : Fear nothing, most adorable princess, you are here in safety ; for notwithstanding the violence of my passion, which your charms have kindled, it shall never exceed the bounds of the profound respect I owe you. The princess, who knew nothing of these particulars, gave very little attention to what Aladdin could say. The fright and amazement of so surprising an adventure, had put her into such a condition, that he could not get one word from her. However, he undressed himself, and got into the vizier's son's place, and lay with his back to the princess, putting a sabre between himself and her, to show that he deserved to be punished if he attempted any thing against her honor.

Aladdin, very well satisfied with having deprived his rival of happiness for that night, slept very quietly, thought the princess never passed a night so ill in her life ; and if we consider the condition the Genie left the grand vizier's son in, we may imagine that the new bridegroom spent his much worse.

Aladdin had no occasion the next morning to rub the lamp to call the Genie ; he came at the time appointed, and just when he had done dressing himself, said to him : I am here, master, what are your commands ? Go, said Aladdin, fetch the vizier's son out of the place where you left him, and put him into this bed again, and carry it from whence you brought it. The Genie presently returned with the vizier's son ; Aladdin took up his sabre ; the new bridegroom was laid by the princess, and in an instant the nuptial bed was transported into the same chamber of the palace from whence it was brought. But we must observe, that all this time the Genie never appeared either to the princess or the grand vizier's son. His hideous form would have made them die away with fear ! Neither did they hear any thing of the discourse between Aladdin and him ; but only perceived the motion of the bed, and their transportation from one place to another, which we may well imagine was enough to frighten them.

As soon as the Genie had set down the nuptial bed in its proper place, the sultan, who was curious to know how

the princess had spent the wedding-night, opened the door to bid her good-morrow. The vizier's son, who was almost perished with cold by standing in his shirt all night, and had not time to warm himself in bed, no sooner heard the door open, but he got out of his bed, and into the wardrobe, where he undressed himself the night before.

The sultan went to the bed-side, kissed the princess between the eyes, according to custom, wishing her a good-morrow, and asked her, smiling, how she had passed the night? But looking at her more earnestly, he was extremely surprised to see her look so melancholy! He said several things, but finding that he could not get a word from her, he attributed it to her modesty, and so retired. Nevertheless, he suspected that there was something extraordinary in this silence, and thereupon went immediately to the sultanness's apartment, and told her in what condition he found the princess, and how she received him. Sir, said the sultanness, your majesty ought not to be surprised at this behavior; new married people always have a restraint upon themselves next day; she will be quite another thing in two or three days time, and then she will receive the sultan, her father, as she ought. But I'll go and see her.

As soon as the sultanness was dressed, away she goes to the princess's apartment, who was still in her bed, undraws the curtain, bid her good-morrow, and kissed her. But how great was her surprise, when she made no answer; and looking attentively at her, perceived her to be very much troubled.

At last the princess broke silence with a great sigh, and said: Alas! most honored madam and mother, forgive me, if I have failed in the respect I owe you. My mind is so full of the extraordinary things that have befallen me this night, that I have not yet recovered my amazement and fright, and scarce know myself. Then she told her all that had happened, and said she had not power to speak to her father, when he came to visit her.

The sultanness heard all the princess told her patiently, but would not believe it. You did well, child, said she, not to speak of this to your father. Have a care, for the future, how you mention it to any body; for you will certainly be thought mad if you talk at this rate.

Aladdin, who was well acquainted with what past in the palace, never disputed that the new-married couple were to lie together again that night, notwithstanding the troublesome adventure of the night before ; and therefore, he having as great an inclination to disturb them, had recourse to his lamp ; and when the Genie appeared, and offered his services, said to him : The grand vizier's son and the princess Badroulboudour are to lie together again to night ; go and as soon as they are in bed, bring the bed hither, as thou didst yesterday.

The Genie obeyed Aladdin as faithfully as the day before : the vizier's son passed the night as coldly and disagreeable as before, and the princess had the mortification again to have Aladdin for a bed-fellow, with the sabre between them. The Genie, according to Aladdin's orders, came the next morning, brought the bridegroom, laid him by his bride, and then carried the bed and the new-married couple back again to the palace.

The sultan, after the reception the princess had given him that day, was very uneasy to know how she passed the second night, and if she would give him the same reception ; therefore went to her as early as the morning before. The grand vizier's son, more ashamed and mortified at the ill success of this last night, no sooner heard him coming, but he jumped out of bed, and ran hastily into the wardrobe. The sultan went to the princess's bed-side, and bid her good-morrow. Well daughter, said he, are you in a better humor than you were yesterday morning ? Still the princess was silent ; and the sultan perceiving her to be more troubled, and in a greater confusion than before, never doubted that something very extraordinary was the cause ; but provoked that his daughter should conceal it, he said to her in a rage, with his sabre in his hand, Daughter, either tell me what is the matter, or I will cut off your head immediately.

The princess, more frightened at the menaces and tone of the enraged sultan, than at the sight of the drawn sabre at last broke silence, and said, with tears in her eyes. Dear father and sultan, I ask your pardon, if I have offended you ; and hope that you will have compassion on me, when I have told you in what a miserable condition I have spent this last night and the night before.

After this preamble, which appeased the sultan, she told him what had happened to her in so moving a manner, that he, who loved her tenderly, was most sensibly grieved. And to confirm him into a belief of what she said, she added, If your majesty has any doubts of the truth of this account, you may inform yourself from my husband, who, I am persuaded, will tell you the same thing.

The sultan immediately said, Daughter, you are very much to blame for not telling me this yesterday, since it concerns me as much as yourself. I'll take care and give orders that you shall have no more such disagreeable and insupportable nights. As soon as the sultan had got back to his own apartment, he sent for the grand vizier, and related all that the princess Badroulbondour had told him, and afterwards said : I do not doubt but my daughter has told me the truth : nevertheless I should be glad to have it confirmed by your son ; therefore go and ask him how it was.

The grand vizier went immediately to his son, and communicated the sultan's pleasure to him, and enjoined him to conceal nothing from him, but to tell him the whole. I'll disguise nothing from you, father, answered the son, for indeed all that the princess says is true. The grand vizier then waited on the sultan, and confirmed every thing the princess had told her father, and begged of the sultan to break the marriage, alledging that it was not just that the princess should be exposed in such a manner on his son's account.

The grand vizier found it no great difficulty to obtain what he asked. From that very instant, the sultan, who had determined it already, gave orders to put a stop to all rejoicings in the palace and town, and sent expresses to all parts of his dominions, to countermand his orders.

This sudden and unexpected change gave great room for odious speculations and enquiries ; but no other account could be given for it, but that the vizier and his son went out of the palace both very much dejected. Nobody but Aladdin knew the secret, who rejoiced within himself for the happy success his lamp had procured him. Nevertheless he let the three months be completed, which the sultan had appointed for the consummation of the war :

riage between the princess Badroulboudour and himself ; but the next day sent his mother to the palace, to remind the sultan of his promise.

Aladdin's mother went to the palace, as her son had bid her, and stood before the divan in the same place as before. The sultan no sooner cast his eyes upon her, but he knew her again, remembered her business, and how long he had put her off : therefore when the grand vizier was beginning to make his report, the sultan interrupted him, and said, Vizier, I see the good woman who made me the present sometime since ; forbear your report till I have heard what she has to say. The vizier, looking about the divan, presently perceived Aladdin's mother, and sent the chief of the huissirs for her.

Aladdin's mother came to the foot of the throne, prostrated herself as usual, and when she had got up again, the sultan asked her what she wanted. Sir, said she, I came to represent to your majesty, in the name of my son Aladdin, that the three months, at the end of which you ordered me to come again, are expired, and to put you in mind of your promise.

The sultan when he set this time, little thought of hearing any more of marriage, which he imagined must be very disagreeable to the princess. The grand vizier freely told the sultan his thoughts, and said to him : In my opinion, there is an infallible way for your majesty to avoid a match so disproportionable, without given Aladdin any cause of complaint ; which is for your majesty to set so high a value upon the princess, that, were he ever so rich, he could not come up to.

The sultan approved of the grand vizier's advice, turned to Aladdin's mother, and, after some short reflections, said to her : Good woman, it is true sultans ought to be as good as their words ; and I am ready to keep mine, by making your son happy by the marriage of the princess my daughter. But as I cannot marry her without some valuable considerations from your son, you may tell him I will fulfil my promise as soon as he shall send me forty basons of massy gold, full of such things as you have already presented to me, and carried by the like number of black slaves, who shall be led by as many young and handsome white slaves, all dressed magnificently. On these conditions

I am ready to bestow the princess my daughter, on him. Therefore, good woman, go tell him so, and I will wait till you bring me his answer.

Aladdin's mother prostrated herself a second time before the sultan's throne, and retired, laughing within herself at her son's foolish imagination. She gave him an exact account of what the sultan said to her, and the condition on which the sultan consented to the match. She said to him : The sultan expects your answer immediately ; but, continued she, laughing, I believe he must wait long enough.

Not so long, mother, as you imagine, replied he ; but while I think of satisfying his requests, go and get us something for dinner. While his mother was gone out to market, Aladdin took the lamp and rubbed it, and the Genie appeared, and offered his services as usual. The sultan, said Aladdin to him, gives me the princess, his daughter, in marriage ; but demands first forty basons of massy gold, full of the same fruit of the garden from whence I took this lamp, thou art a slave to ; and these he expects to have carried by as many black slaves, each preceded by a young, handsome, white slave, richly clothed. Go, and fetch me this present as soon as possible, that I may send it to him before the divan breaks up. The genie obeyed his commands, and disappeared.

In a little time after the Genie returned with forty black slaves, each with a bason on his head, full of pearls, diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, all larger and more beautiful than those presented to the sultan before. Each bason was covered with a silver stuff, embroidered with flowers of gold. All these and the white slaves quite filled the house. The Genie asked Aladdin if he had any other commands ? Aladdin told him that he wanted nothing further and the Genie disappeared.

When Aladdin's mother came from market, she was in a great surprise to see so many people, and such vast riches. As soon as she had laid down her provisions, she was going to pull off her veil ; but Aladdin hindered her, and said : Let's lose no time, but before the sultan and divan rise, I would have you return to the palace with this present, that he may judge, by my diligence and exactness, of the ardent and sincere zeal I have to procure the honor

of his alliance : Without waiting for his mother to make a reply, Aladdin opened the street door, and made the slaves walk out, a white slave followed by a black one, with a bason on his head. When they were all gone out, he shut the door, and then retired to his chamber, full of hopes that the sultan, after this present would receive him as his son-in-law.

The sight of all these slaves crowded the streets with spectators, Their dresses were so rich, that those who were judges, valued each at no less than a million of money. They marched slow, and at an equal distance from each other ; and the jewels, which were large, cast such a beautiful lustre, that they could not forbear gazing at them ; in short, the streets were so crowded with people that none could move out of the spot they stood in. As soon as the first of these slaves arrived at the palace gates, the porters formed themselves in order, and took him for a king, by the richness and magnificence of his habit, and were going to kiss the hem of his garment, but the slave, who was instructed by the Genie, prevented them, and said : We are only slaves ; our master will appear at a proper time.

Then this slave followed by the rest, advanced into the second court, which was very spacious, and in which stood the sultan's palace. The magnificence of the officers, who stood at the head of their troops, was very much eclipsed by Aladdin's slaves. Nothing was ever seen so shining and so noble in the sultan's palace before.

As the sultan, who had been informed of their coming to the palace, had given orders for them to be admitted, they met with no obstacle, but went into the divan in good order, one part filing off to the right, and the other to the left. After they were all entered, they formed a semi-circle before the sultan's throne, and the black slaves laid the basons on the carpet, and prostrated themselves. When they rose again, the black slaves uncovered the basons, and then all stood with their arms crossed over their breasts in great modesty.

In the meantime Aladdin's mother advanced to the foot of the throne, and having paid her respects, said to the sultan : Sir, my son Aladdin is sensible this present he has sent your majesty, is very much below the princess Bad-

roulboudor's worth ; but hopes, nevertheless, your majesty will accept of it, and make it agreeable to the princess.

The sultan was not able to give the least attention to this compliment of Aladdin's mother, being so struck with the sight, that he could not recover his admiration !

The sultan never staid, nor thought of informing himself whether Aladdin was endowed with all the qualifications fitting for one who aspired to be his son-in-law. The sight only of such immense riches, and Aladdin's diligence in satisfying his demand, without starting the least difficulty on the exorbitant conditions he had imposed on him, persuaded him easily, that he could want nothing to render him accomplished. Therefore, to send Aladdin's mother back, with all the satisfaction he could desire, he said to her : Good woman, go and tell your son, that I wait to embrace and receive him with open arms ; and the more haste he makes to come and receive the princess my daughter from my hands, the greater pleasure he will do me.

As soon as Aladdin's mother retired, as much overjoyed as woman in her condition could be, the sultan put an end to the audience for that day ; and rising from the throne, ordered that the princess's eunuchs should come and carry those basons into their mistress's apartment, whither he went himself to examine them at his leisure.

In the meantime Aladdin's mother got home, and shewed in her air and countenance the good news she had brought her son. Child, said she, to him, the sultan with the approbation of the court, has declared that you are worthy of possessing the princess Badroulboudour, and waits to embrace you, and conclude your marriage ; therefore you must think of making some preparations for that interview, that may answer the great opinion he has of your person ; and after the wonders I have seen you do, I am persuaded nothing can be wanting. But I must not forget to tell you, the sultan waits for you with great impatience, therefore lose no time.

Aladdin charmed with this news, and full of the object that possessed his soul, made his mother very little reply, but retired to his chamber ; there after he had rubbed his lamp, which had never failed him in whatever he wished for,

the obedient Genie appeared. Genie, said Aladdin, I want to bathe immediately, and afterwards provide me the most rich and magnificent habit ever wore. No sooner spoke, but the Genie rendered him as well as himself invisible, and transported him into a fine marble bath, where he was rubbed and washed with all sorts of fine scented waters. When he had done this, his skin was clear white and red, and his body lightsome and easy, and when he returned into the hall, found instead of his own, a noble habit, the magnificence of which very much surprised him. The Genie helped him to dress and when he had done, transported him back to his chamber, when he asked him, if he had any other commands? Yes, answered Aladdin, I expect you will bring me, as soon as possible, an horse that surpasses, in beauty and goodness, the best in the sultan's stables, with saddle and housing, and other accoutrements, to the value of a million of money. I want also, twenty slaves, as richly cloathed as those presented to the sultan. to walk by my side, and follow me, and twenty more to go before me in two ranks, Besides these, bring six women slaves to wait on my mother, as finely dressed as any belonging to the princess, each loaded with a compleat suit fit for any sultanness. After all these things, be sure dont forget to bring me ten thousand pieces of gold in ten purses: make haste, and be diligent.

As soon as the Genie had received these orders, he disappeared, and presently returned with what Aladdin desired.

Of the ten purses Aladdin took four, which he gave his mother, telling her they were to supply her with necessaries; the other six he left in the hands of the slaves who brought them, with an order to throw handfuls among the people as they went to the sultan's palace. The six slaves who carried the purses, he ordered likewise to march before him, three on the right hand, and three on the left. Afterwards he presented the six women slaves to his mother, telling her they were her slaves, and that the habits they brought were for her use.

When Aladdin had thus disposed affairs, he told the Genie he would call him when wanted, and instantly the Genie disappeared. Then Aladdin's thoughts were intent upon answering, as soon as possible, the desire the sultan

had shewn to see him. He dispatched one of the forty slaves to the palace; with an order to address himself to the chief of the huissirs, to know when he might have the honor to come and throw himself at the sultan's feet. The slave soon acquitted himself of this message, and brought him word that the sultan waited for him with impatience.

Aladdin immediately mounted his horse, and began to march in the order he had appointed; and though he never was on a horse's back before, he appeared with extraordinary grace. The streets through which he was to pass, were crowded with an innumerable concourse of people, who made the air echo with their acclamations, especially every time the six slaves, who carried the purses, threw handfuls of gold into the air. Neither did those acclamations and shouts of joy come only from those who scrambled for the money, but from a superior rank of people, who could not forbear commending publicly Aladdin's generosity.

When he arrived in the palace, every thing was prepared for his reception; and when he came to the second gate, he would have alighted, but the chief of the huissirs, who waited on him by the sultan's order, prevented him, and attended him to the council hall, where he helped him to dismount, though Aladdin opposed it very much, but could not prevail. The huissirs formed themselves in two ranks at the entrance of the hall; their chief put Aladdin on his right hand, and passing through the midst of them, led him to the sultan's throne,

As soon as the sultan perceived Aladdin, he was much amazed to see him more richly and magnificently clothed than he had ever been himself, surprised at his good mein, fine shape, and a certain air of grandeur, which was very different from the meanness his mother appeared in; all which were contrary to his expectations. But notwithstanding this amazement and surprise did not hinder him from rising off his throne, and stepping down two or three steps quick enough to prevent Aladdin's throwing himself at his feet, embraced him with all the demonstrations of friendship. After this civility, Aladdin would have cast himself at his feet again; but he held him fast by the hand, and obliged him to sit between him and the grand vizier.

Then Aladdin, resuming the discourse said, I receive, sir, the honor which your majesty out of your great bounty is pleased to confer on me : but permit me to tell you that I have not forgotten that I am your slave ; that the greatness of your power, and that I am not insensible how my birth is below the splendour and lustre of the high rank to which I am raised. If any way, continued he, I could have merited so favorable a reception, I confess I cannot attribute it to my boldness, but to a mere chance, which made me raise my thoughts to the divine princess, who is the object of my wishes. I ask your majesty's pardon for my rashness ; but I cannot dissemble. I should die with grief, if I should lose my hopes of seeing them accomplished.

Son, answered the sultan, embracing him a second time, you do me wrong to doubt the least of my sincerity. Your life, from this moment is too dear to me, not to preserve it. by presenting you with a remedy which is in my disposal. I prefer the pleasure of seeing and hearing you before all your treasure and mine put together.

After these words, the sultan gave a signal, and immediately the air echoed again with trumpets hautboys, and other musical instruments ! at the same time the sultan sent Aladdin into a magnificent hall, where there was prepared a noble feast. Their conversation was on different matters ; but all the while the sultan took so great a pleasure in seeing him, that he hardly ever took his eyes off him ; and throughout all their discourse Aladdin shewed so much good sense, as confirmed the sultan in the good opinion he had of him.

After dinner, the sultan sent for the chief judge of his capital, and ordered him to draw up immediately a contract of marriage between the princess Badroulboudour his daughter and Aladdin.

When the judge had drawn up the contract in all the requisite forms, the sultan asked Aladdin, if he would stay in the palace, and solemnize the ceremonies of marriage that day ? To which he answered, sir, though my impatience is great to enjoy your majesty's bounty, yet I beg of you to give me leave to defer it till I have built a palace fit to receive the princess in ; I therefore desire you to grant me a convenient spot of ground nigh your palace.

that I may come the oftener to pay my respect to you ; and I'll take care to have it finished with all diligence. Son, said the sultan. take what ground you think proper : there's land enough before my palace : but consider I cannot then see you so soon united with my daughter which would complete my joy. After these words he embraced Aladdin again, who took his leave with as much politeness as if he had been brought up at court.

Aladdin mounted his horse again, and returned home in the same order he came, with the acclamations of the people. As soon as he dismounted, he retired to his chamber, took the lamp, and called the Genie as usual. Genie, said Aladdin, I have all the reason in the world to commend thy exactness in executing hitherto punctually whatever I have asked thee to do. But now thou must shew, if possible more zeal and diligence than ever. I would have thee build me as soon as thou canst, a palace over against, and at a just distance from the sultan's and fit to receive my spouse, the princess Badroulboudour. I leave the choice of the materials to thee, that is to say porphyry, jasper, agate, *Lapis Lazuli*, fine marble, and the rest of the building. But I expect at the top of this palace, thou shalt build me a large hall with a dome, and four equal fronts, and that instead of bricks, the wall be made of wedges of massy gold and silver, laid alternately, that each front shall contain six windows, which shall be enriched with art and scimmetry, diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, they shall exceed all things of that kind in the world. I would have an inner and outward court before the palace, and a curious garden ; but above all things, take care that there be laid in a place, which thou shalt tell me of, a treasure of gold and silver coin. Besides, this palace must be well provided with kitchens and offices, storehouses, and rooms to keep choice furniture in, for all the seasons of the year, I must have stables full of the finest horses, equerries, and grooms, and a hunting equipage. There must be officers to attend the kitchen and offices, and women slaves to wait on the princess. Thou understandest what I mean, therefore go about it, and come and tell when all is done.

By that time Aladdin had instructed the Genie with his

intentions, and the building of the palace, the sun was set. The next morning by break of day Aladdin whose love for the princess would not let him sleep, was no sooner up but the Genie presented himself, and said, sir, your palace is finished, come and see if you like it. Aladdin had no sooner signified his consent, but the Genie transported him thither in an instant, and he found it so much beyond his expectation, that he could not enough admire it. The Genie led him through all the apartments, where he met with nothing but what was rich and magnificent, with officers and slaves, all dressed according to their rank and service, for which they were appointed. Then the Genie shewed him the treasury, where Aladdin saw heaps of bags of money of different sizes, piled up to the top of the ceiling. The Genie assured him of the treasurer's fidelity; and thence led him to the stables, where he shewed him some of the finest horses in the world, and the grooms carefully dressing them; and from thence they went to the storehouses, which were filled with all necessary provisions, both for the food and ornament of the houses.

When Aladdin had examined the palace from the top to the bottom, and particularly the hall with the four and twenty windows, and found it much beyond whatever he could have imagined, he said, Genie, no one can be better satisfied than I am, there's only one thing wanting which I forgot, that is, to lay from the sultan's palace to the door or the apartment, designed for the princess, a piece of fine velvet for her to walk upon. The Genie immediately disappeared, and Aladdin saw what he desired executed that minute. Then the Genie returned, and carried Aladdin home before the gates of the sultan's palace were opened.

When the porters, who had always been used to an open prospect, came to open the gates, they were amazed to find it limited, and to see a piece of velvet spread for a great way; but when they could discern Aladdin's palace distinctly, their surprise was very much increased. The news of so extraordinary a wonder was presently spread about the palace. The grand vizier, who came soon after the gates were opened, was no less amazed than other people at this novelty, but ran and acquainted the sultan, and endeavored to make him believe it to be all enchantment. Vizier, replied the sultan, why will you have it to be en-

chantment? You know as well as me that it is Aladdin's palace, which I gave him leave to build, to receive my daughter in. After the proof we have had of his riches, can we think it strange that he should build a palace in so short a time? He has a mind to surprise us, and let us see what wonders are to be done with ready money. Come, own sincerely, that what you mention of enchantment, proceeds from envy. It being then the hour of going to council they had no further discourse.

When Aladdin got home, and had dismissed the Genie, he found his mother up and dressing herself, in one of the suits that were brought her. By that time the council generally broke up. Aladdin had disposed his mother to go to the palace with her slaves, and desired her if she saw the sultan, to tell him she came to do herself the honor to attend the princess towards the evening to her palace. Aladdin mounted his horse, and took leave of his paternal house for ever, taking care not to forget his wonderful lamp, and went to the palace in the same pomp as the day before.

As soon as the porters of the sultan's palace saw Aladdin's mother, they went and informed the sultan, who presently ordered the bands of trumpets, and hautboys, &c. to play, and the drums to beat, so that the air resounded with echoes, and inspired the whole city with joy. The tradesmen and merchants began to adorn their shops and houses with fine carpets and cushions, and bedeck them with boughs, and prepared illuminations against night. The handicraftmen, and workmen of all sorts, left their works, and all repaired to the great space between the sultan's and Aladdin's palace; which last gained all their attention; but the greatest part of their amazement, was to comprehend, by what unheard of miracle, so magnificent a palace should be so soon built.

Aladdin's mother was received in the palace with honor and introduced into the princess Badroulboudour's apartment by the chief of the eunuchs. As soon as the princess saw her, she went and saluted her, and desired her to sit down on the sofa; and while her women made an end of dressing her, and adorning her with jewels Aladdin presented her with, a noble collation was served up. At the same time the sultan, who had a mind to be as much with his daughter as much as possible before he parted with her,

came and paid her great respect. Aladdin's mother often talked to the sultan in public, but he had never seen her with her veil off as she was then : though she was somewhat advanced in years, she had the remains of a good face, which shewed what she had been in her youth. The sultan, who had always seen her dressed very mean and poor, was in admiration to find her richly clothed as the princess his daughter. This when he came to a more serious reflection, made him think Aladdin equally prudent and wise, in whatever he undertook.

When it was night the princess took her leave of the sultan. Their adieus were tender and accompanied with tears, they embraced each other several times, and at last the princess left her own apartment, and set forward for Aladdin's palace, with his mother on her left hand, followed by an hundred women slaves, dressed in a surprising magnificence. All the bands of music joined together, led the procession, followed by a hundred chaoux, and the like number of eunuchs, in two files, with their officers at their head. Four hundred of the sultan's young pages carried flambeaux on each side, which together with the illuminations of the sultan's and Aladdin's palace made it as light as day.

In this order the princess walked on the velvet, which was spread from the sultan's palace to Aladdin's, preceded by bands of musicians.

At last, when the princess arrived at the new palace, Aladdin ran with all the joy imaginable, to the entry of the apartment, the place appointed for him to receive her. His mother had taken care to point him out to the princess, in the midst of the officers that surrounded him, who found him so handsome, she was charmed. Adorable princess, said Aladdin to her, accosting and saluting her respectfully, if I have the misfortune to have displeased you by the boldness of aspiring to the possession of so lovely a princess and my sultan's daughter, I must tell you, that you ought to blame your bright eyes and charms, not me. Prince, (as we may now call him) answered the princess, I am obedient to the will of my father : and it is enough for me to have seen you once, to tell you that I obey him without reluctance.

Aladdin, charmed with so agreeable and obliging an an-

swer, would not keep the princess standing after she had walked so far, which was more than she was used to do, but took her by the hand, which he kissed with the greatest demonstration of joy, and led her into a large hall, illuminated with an infinite number of wax candles, where by the care of the Genie, a noble feast was served up. The plates were all of massy gold, and contained the most delicate and costly meats. The vessels, basons, goblets, &c. with which the beaufats were furnished, were gold, and of exquisite workmanship, and the other ornaments, and embellishments of the hall were answerable. The princess, dazzled to see so much riches in one place, said to Aladdin, I once thought, prince, that nothing in the world was so rich and beautiful as the sultan's, my father's palace, but the sight of this hall alone is sufficient to undeceive me.

When the table was taken away, there entered a company of dancers, who danced according to the custom of the country. About midnight Aladdin presented his hand to the princess Badroulboudour, to dance with her, and to finish the ceremony of their nuptials: and in short both danced with so good a grace, that they were the admiration of all the company. When they left off, Aladdin did not let her hand go, but led her to the apartment where the nuptial bed was prepared. The princess's women helped to undress her, and put her to bed, Aladdin's officers did the same by him, and then all retired. Thus ended the ceremonies and rejoicing of Aladdin's and the princess Badroulboudour's marriage.

The next morning when Aladdin awaked, his valets presented themselves to dress him, and bro't him another habit as rich and magnificent as he wore the day before. Then he ordered one of the horses appointed for his person, to be ready, mounted him, and went in the midst of a troop of slaves to the sultan's palace. The sultan received him with the same honor as before, and asked him to breakfast with him. To which he replied, I beg your majesty will dispense with me from accepting that honor to day, I came to ask you to come and take a repast in the princess's palace, attended by your grand vizier and all the lords of the court. The sultan consenting with pleasure, rose up immediately, and as it was not far off, went on foot, with Aladdin on his

right hand, the grand vizier on his left, preceded by the chaoux and principal officers of his palace, followed by all the great lords of his court.

The nearer the sultan approached Aladdin's palace the more he was struck with its beauty, but was more amazed when he entered it; and could not forbear breaking out into exclamations. But when he came into the hall with the four and twenty windows (to shew which Aladdin invited him) and had seen the ornaments, and above all, cast his eyes on the windows, enriched with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, all large perfect stones; and when Aladdin observed to him, that it was as rich on the outside, he was so much surprised, that he remained some time motionless. After he recovered himself, he said to his vizier, is it possible that there should be such a palace so nigh me and I an utter stranger to it till now? Sir, replied the grand vizier, your majesty may remember that the day before yesterday you gave Aladdin, whom you accepted for your son-in-law, leave to build a palace over against your own, and that night before sunset, there was nothing of it begun, and yesterday I had the honor to tell you that the palace was built and finished. I remember it, replied the sultan, but never imagined that that palace was one of the wonders of the world, certainly there never was any thing like it in the world before.

Afterwards the sultan went out of this hall, and Aladdin led him into that where he had regaled the princess Badroulboudour on his wedding day. The princess came immediately afterwards and received the sultan her father with an air that shewed how much she was satisfied with her marriage. Two tables were immediately spread with the most delicious meats served up in gold dishes. The sultan, princess, Aladdin, and the grand vizier sat down at the first, and all the lords of the court at the second, which were very long. The sultan was very much pleased with the meats, and owned they were excellent, as well as the wines delicious; but what he most of all admired, was four large beaufats, profusely furnished with large flaggons, basons, and tumblers, all of massy gold beset with jewels. Besides, he was charmed with several bands of music, which were ranged along the hall, and formed most agreeable concerts.

The sultan returned to his palace, but would not let A-

Aladdin go back with him. The sultan, as certain as he rose in the morning went to the closet, to look at Aladdin's palace, and would go often in a day to contemplate and admire it.

All this time Aladdin did not confine himself in his palace, but took care to shew himself once or twice a week in town by going sometimes to one mosque and another, to prayers, or going to pay the grand vizier a visit, who affected to make great court to him on certain days, on which he did the principal lords of the court the honor to regale them at his palace. Every time he stirred out, he caused two slaves who walked by his side, to throw handfuls of money among the people, as he passed through the streets, which were generally at that time crowded. Besides, no one came to his palace gates to beg alms but were sensible of his liberality.

Not a week passed, but Aladdin went once or twice a hunting, sometimes near the town, and sometimes farther off, at which times the villages through which he passed, felt the effects of his generosity, which so much gained him the love and blessings of the people, that it was common for them to swear by his head. In short, without giving the sultan (to whom he paid all imaginable respect) the least umbrage, it might be said, that Aladdin, by his affable behaviour and liberality, had got the affections of the people, and was more beloved than the sultan himself. With all these good qualities, he shewed great courage, and a commendable zeal for the public good, both of which he gave sufficient proof in a revolt on the borders of that kingdom; for he no sooner understood that the sultan was levying an army to disperse the rebels but he begged the command of it, which he found no difficulty to obtain. As soon as he got to the army, he marched his troops against the rebels, and was so quick in that expedition, that the sultan heard of the rebel's defeat, before he had an account of his arrival in the army. Tho' this action rendered his name famous throughout the kingdom, it never puffed up his heart with pride and vanity, but he was as affable after returning victor as before.

Aladdin had lived and behaved himself after this manner several years, when the African magician who undesignedly had been the instrument of raising him to so high a pitch of fortune, bethought himself of him in Africa, whither after his expedition he returned. Tho' he was almost persuaded

that Aladdin died in the subterraneous abode where he left him yet he had the curiosity to know his end certainly ; and as he was a great necromancer, he took out of a cupboard a box, which he made use of in his necromantic observations, then sat himself down on his sofa, and set it before him. After he had prepared and levelled the sand which was in it, with an intention to discover, whether or no Aladdin died in the subterraneous abode, he cast figures, and formed a horoscope, by which when he came to examine it he found that Aladdin had escaped out of the cave, lived splendidly, as rich, had married a princess, and was very much honored and respected.

The magician no sooner understood that Aladdin had arrived at the height of good fortune, but he cried out in a rage, this poor sorry taylor's son has discovered the secret and virtue of the lamp ! I believed his death to be certain, but find too plainly he enjoys the fruit of my labour and study ! But I'll prevent his enjoying it long, or perish in the attempt. He was not a great while deliberating on what he should do, but the next morning set forwards, and never stopt but to refresh himself, till he arrived at the capital of China, and took a lodging in a khan, and stayed there the remainder of the day and the night, to refresh himself after so long a journey.

The next day, the first thing the magician did, was to enquire what people said of Aladdin, and taking a walk for that end through the town, he went to the most public and frequented places, where people of the best distinction met to drink a certain warm liquor, which he drank often of, when he was there before. As soon as he sat down, he was presented with a glass, which he took, but listened at the same time to the discourse of the company, who were talking of Aladdin's palace. When he had drank off his glass, he joined them, and taking his opportunity, asked them particularly, what palace it was that they spoke so advantageously of. From whence came you ? said the person to whom he addressed himself ; you must certainly be a stranger, not to have seen, nor heard talk of prince Aladdin's palace, for he is so called after his marriage with the princess Badroulboudour : I don't say, continued the gentleman, that it is one of the wonders of the world, but the only wonder of the world ; since there is nothing so grand, rich, and magnificent.

The next thing he had to do, was to know where the lamp was, if Aladdin carried it about him, or where he kept it. And this he was to discover by his art of necromancy ; as soon as he entered his lodging, he took his square box of sand, which he always carried along with him when he travelled, and when he had performed some operations, he knew that the lamp was in Aladdin's palace, and conceived an inexpressible joy at the discovery.

It was Aladdin's misfortune at that time to be gone a hunting for eight days, which the magician came to know by means of the master of the khan, and returning to his chamber, said to himself, this is an opportunity I ought by no means to let slip, but will make the best use of it. To that end he went to a maker and seller of lamps and asked for a dozen of copper lamps, paid the man his full price for them, put them into a basket which he had brought on purpose with him, hung the basket on his arm, and went directly with it to Aladdin's palace, and when he came near it, cried, who'll change old lamps for new ones ? But as he went along he gathered a crowd of children about him, who thought him (as indeed a great many passing by did) mad, or a fool to change new lamps for old ones, and therefore hallooed at him.

The African magician never minded all their scoffs and halloos, or all they could say to him, but still cried, who'll change old lamps for new ones ? which he repeated so often about the princess Badroulboudour's palace that the princess who was then in the hall, with the four and twenty windows, hearing a man cry something, and not being able to distinguish his words, by reason of the hallooing of the mob about him, sent one of her women slaves down to know what he cried.

The slave was not long before she returned, and ran into the hall laughing so heartily, that the princess could not forbear herself. Well, giggler, said the princess, will you tell me what you laugh at ? alas ! madam, answered the slave laughing still, who can forbear laughing, at a fool, with a basket on his arm full of fine new lamps, ask to change them for old ones ? which make the children and mob make such a noise about him.

Another woman slave hearing this, said, now you speak of lamps, I know not whether the princess may have obser-

ved it, but there's an old one upon the cornish, and whoever owns it, he will not be sorry to find a new one in its stead. If the princess has a mind, she may have the pleasure to try if this fool is so silly as to give an new lamp for an old one, without having any thing for the exchange.

The princess who knew not the value of the lamp, bid the ennuich take it, and go make the exchange. The eunuich obeyed, went out of the hall, and no sooner got to the palace gate, but he saw the magician, called to him, and shewing him the old lamp, said to him, give me a new lamp for this.

The magician never disputed, but this was the lamp he wanted, since he had been informed that there were no such utensils in the palace, but what were either gold or silver : he snatched it presently, and thrusting it as far into his breast as he could, offered him his basket, and bid him choose which he liked best. The eunuich picked out one and carried it to the princess, but the exchange was no sooner made than there was such a halloo that the palace rung again : such a ridicule the children made of him.

The magician gave them leave to laugh as much as they pleased, but staying not long about the palace, made his way into the fields, and turned into a road which led to a lonely remote place, where he stopt some time, to execute what he came about.

In this place the magician passed the remainder of the day, till it was night, when he pulled the lamp out of his breast and rubbed it. Upon that summons, the Genie appeared, and said, what wilt thou have? I am ready to obey thee as thy slave. I command thee, replied the magician, to transport me immediately, and the palace which thou and the other slaves of the lamp have built in this town, such as it is, with all the persons in it to such a place in Africa. The Genie made no reply, but transported him, and the palace entire, immediately to the place he appointed in Africa : where we will leave the magician, the palace, and the princess, to speak of the surprise of the sultan.

As soon as the sultan rose next morning, he went into his closet to admire Aladdin's palace : But when he first looked that way, and saw an empty space instead of a palace, he thought at first he was mistaken, and rubbed his

eyes, but when he looked again, and saw no palace, his amazement was so great, that he stood for some time musing with himself, that so large a palace as Aladdin's which he saw every day, and the night before, should vanish so soon, and not leave the least remains behind. Certainly, said he to himself, I am not mistaken, it stood there: if it had tumbled down, the materials would have lain in heaps, and if swallowed up by an earthquake, there would be some mark left.—However, though he was convinced that no palace stood there, he could not help staying there for some time, to see whether or no he might not be mistaken. At last he retired to his apartment, not without looking behind him, and ordered the grand vizier to be fetched in all haste.

The grand vizier went into the closet, where he was struck with no less amazement than the sultan had been. When he was well assured that there was not the least appearance, he returned to the sultan. Well vizier, said he, you have seen Aladdin's palace? Sir, answered the vizier, your majesty may remember that I had the honor to tell you, that the palace which was the subject of your admiration, with all its immense riches, was only the work of magic but your majesty then would not give the least attention to what I said.

The sultan, who could not disown what the grand vizier had represented to him, for that reason flew into the greatest passion. Where is that impostor, that wicked wretch, said he, that I may have his head cut off immediately! Sir, replied the grand vizier, it is some days since he came to take his leave of your majesty; he ought to be sent to, to know what's become of his palace, since he cannot be ignorant of what has been transacted. That's too great an indulgence, replied the sultan; go order a detachment of thirty horses to bring him loaded in chains. The vizier went and instructed the officer that commanded them how he might take Aladdin. The detachment pursued their orders, and about six leagues from the town, met him returning from hunting. The officer went up to him, and took him.

Aladdin was carried before the sultan, and as soon as he saw him, he ordered the executioner, who awaited on the purpose, to cut off his head, without hearing or giving him time to clear himself.

As soon as the executioner had taken off the chain that was fastened about Aladdin's neck and body, and laid down a skin stained with the blood of the many criminals he had executed, he made Aladdin kneel down and tied a bandage over his eyes : then drawing his sabre, he flourished it three or four times in the air, waiting for the sultan's signal.

At that instant the grand vizier perceiving that the populace had forced the guard of horse, and crowded the great square before the palace, and were scaling the walls in several places, said to the sultan, before he gave the signal, I beg of your majesty to consider what you are going to do, since you will hazard your palace being forced, and who knows what fatal consequences may attend it. My palace forced ! replied the sultan, who can have that boldness ! Sir, answered the grand vizier if your majesty cast but your eyes towards the great square, and on the palace walls, you will know what I mean.

The sultan was so affrighted, when he saw so great a mob, and perceiving how enraged they were, he ordered the executioner to put up his sabre immediately, and to unbind Aladdin ; and at the same time declare to the people that the sultan had pardoned Aladdin.

Then all those, who had already got upon the walls, and were witnesses of what had passed, abandoned their posts, and got down ; and overjoyed that they had saved the life of a man, whom they loved so dearly, published the news among the rest.

When Aladdin found himself at liberty, he turned towards the balcony, and perceiving the sultan raised his voice, and said to him in a moving manner, I beg of your majesty to add one favor to that which I have already received, which is, to let me know my crime. Thy crime, answered the sultan, perfidious wretch ! dost thou not know it ? come up hither, and I'll shew it thee.

Aladdin went up to the sultan, who after he had paid obeisance, said to him, follow me, and then led him into his closet. When he came to the door, he said to him, thou oughtest to know where-a-bouts thy palace stood ; look, and tell me what's become of it.

Aladdin stared about him, and perceived very well the spot of ground his palace stood on, but not being able to

divine how it should disappear, he was in so great confusion, that he could not return an answer.

The sultan growing impatient, said to him again, where is thy palace, and what is become of my daughter? Then Aladdin breaking silence, said to him, Sir, I see very well, and own that the palace which I built, is not in the same place where it was, but that it is vanished; neither can I tell your majesty where it may be, but can assure you I have no hand in it.

I am not so much concerned about thy palace, replied the sultan; I value my daughter a thousand times before it, and would have thee find her out, otherwise I will have thy head struck off, and no consideration shall prevent it.

I beg of your majesty, answered Aladdin, to grant me forty days to make my enquiries, and if in that time I have not success I wish for, I'll come again and offer up my head at the foot of your throne, and you may dispose of it at your pleasure. I give you the forty days you ask said the sultan; but do not think to abuse the favor I shew you by thinking to escape my resentment; for I shall find ways to come at you in whatsoever part of the world you go to.

Aladdin went out of the sultan's presence with great humiliation, and seemed worthy of pity. He crossed the court of the palace hanging down his head, and was in great confusion, he durst not lift up his eyes. The principal officers of the court, who had all professed themselves his friends, and whom he had never disoblige'd, turned their back on him.

When he was tired with wandering about the city, he strolled into the country, and after he had traversed several fields in frightful uncertainty, at the close of the night he came to a river's side; there possessed by his despair, he said to himself, where shall I seek my palace? in what country, or part of the world, shall I find that, and my dear princess, whom the sultan expects from me? I shall never succeed; I'd better free myself from so many fatigues, and such bitter grief; and then was just going to throw himself into the river, but as a good mussulman, he thought fit to say his prayers; and going to prepare himself, he went first to the river side, to wash his hands and face according to custom. But that place being steep and slippery, by rea-

son of the water beating against it he slides down, and had certainly fallen into the river, but for a little rock which stood about two feet out of the earth : besides it was the happiness he still had the ring, which the African magician put on his finger before he went down into the subterraneous abode to fetch the lamp ; for by his falling down the bank, he rubbed the ring so hard by holding on the rock, that immediately the same Genie appeared, which he saw in the cave where the magician left him. What would'st thou have ? said the Genie : I am ready to obey thee as thy slave, and the slave of all those who have that ring on their finger.

Aladdin, agreeably surprised at an apparition he so little expected in the despair he was in, replied, Save my life, Genie, a second time, either by shewing me the place where the palace I have caused to be built now stands, or immediately transport it back where it first stood. That which you command me, answered the Genie, is not in my power, I am only the slave of the ring ; you must address yourself to the slave of the lamp. If it be so, replied Aladdin, I command thee, by the power of the ring, to transport me to the place where the palace stands, in what part of the world soever it is, and set me down under the princess Badroulboudour's window. These words were no sooner out of his mouth, but the Genie transported him into the midst of a large meadow in Africa, where his palace stood, and set him exactly under the window of the princess's apartment, and then left him : All this he did in almost an instant.

Aladdin, notwithstanding the darkness of the night, knew his palace again very well, and the princess Badroulboudour's apartment, but as the night was pretty far advanced, and all was quiet in the palace, he retired some distance off, and sat down at the root of a large tree : but having not slept for five or six days, he was not able to resist the drowsiness that came upon him, but fell fast asleep.

The next morning, as soon as day appeared, Aladdin was agreeably awakened by the singing of the birds, he immediately got up, and went to the princess's apartment, and walked under the window.—The princess Badroulboudour rose earlier this morning than ever she had done since her transportation into Africa, and as she was dressing, one

of the women looking through the window perceived Aladdin, and presently ran and told her mistress. The princess, who could not believe the news, went that moment herself to the window, and seeing Aladdin, immediately opened it. The noise the princess made in opening the window, made Aladdin turn his head that way, who perceiving the princess, saluted her with an air that expressed his joy ; who, to lose no time said to him, I have sent to have the back door opened for you, and then shut the window.

The back door, which was just under the princess's apartment, was soon opened, and Aladdin was conducted into the princess' chamber. It was impossible to express the joy of these lovers, to see each other after a separation which both thought was forever. Aladdin said to her, I beg you princess, in God's name, before we talk of any thing else, to tell me what is become of an old lamp which I left upon the cornish, in the hall of the four and twenty windows, before I went to the hunting match. Then the princess Badroulboudour, gave Aladdin an account how she changed the old lamp for a new one ; and how the next morning she found herself in an unknown country, which was the same he and she were then in, which she was told was Africa, by the traitor who had transported her by his magic art.

Princess, said Aladdin, interrupting her, you have informed me who the traitor is, by telling me we are in Africa. He is the most perfidious of all men, but this is neither a time nor place to give a full account of his villainies. I desire you only to tell me what he has done with the lamp, and where he has put it. He carries it carefully wrapped up in his bosom, said the princess, and this I can assure you because he pulled it out before me, and shewed it to me.

Princess, said Aladdin, tell me, I conjure you, how so wicked and perfidious a man treats you ? Since I have been here, replied the princess, he comes once every day to see me, and I am persuaded the little satisfaction he receives from his visits, makes him come no oftener. And all his discourse tends to persuade me to break that faith I pledged to you, and take him for an husband ; giving me to understand I ought not to entertain any hopes of seeing you again, for that you were dead ; but my dear spouse's presence removes all my disquiets.

I have greater confidence, replied Aladdin, since my princess's fears are removed, and believe I have thought of the means to deliver you from your enemy and mine, to execute which design it is necessary for me to go to town. I shall return by noon, and then will communicate my project to you, and tell you what must be done to succeed in it. But that you may not be surprised, think it proper to acquaint that I shall change my apparel, and beg you to give orders that I may not wait long at the door, but that it may be opened at the first knock ? all which the princess promised to observe.

When Aladdin was got out of the palace, he looked about him on all sides, and perceiving a country fellow before him, who seemed not advancing towards him but going from the palace, he made all imaginable haste after him ; and when he had overtaken him, made a proposal to change cloaths which the fellow agreed to. Afterwards he went to the town, and going into one of the largest shops, asked the druggist if he had a certain powder which he named, and asked him for half a drachm, which the druggist weighed, and wrapped up in a piece of paper, and gave him, telling him the price was a piece of gold. He paid down the money, and staying no longer in the town but just to get a little refreshment, returned to the palace. When he came to the princess's apartment he said, princess, I am afraid the aversion you have for your ravisher, may not render what I am going to propose very agreeable, but give me leave to tell you it is proper that you should in this juncture dissemble a little, and constrain your inclination, if you would deliver yourself from him, and give my lord the sultan your father, the satisfaction of seeing you again.

If you will take my advice, continued he, dress yourself this moment in one of your richest habits, and when the magician comes, receive him with an affable and open countenance, that he may imagine time will wear off your grief. In your conversation let him understand that you strive to forget me ; and that he may be the more fully convinced of your sincerity, invite him to sup with you, and seem to have a mind to taste of some of the best wines of this country. There is no doubt but he will be ready to fetch you some ; during his absence, put into one of the cups this powder, and charge the slave you design that night

to attend you, upon a signal you shall agree upon with her, to bring that cup to you. When the magician and you have eat and drank as much as you care for, give her the signal, and change cups with him which he will take as a favor, but no sooner will he have drank off the cup, but you will see him fall back. If you have any reluctance to drink out of his cup, you may pretend only to do it without fear of being discovered ; for the effect of the powder is so quick, that he will not have time to know whether you have drank or not.

I own, answered the princess, I shall do myself a great violence in consenting to make the magician such advances, but I see they are absolutely necessary. After the princess had thus agreed to the measures proposed by Aladdin, he took his leave of her. When the princess dressed, she consulted her glass and women upon this adjustment, and when she found she wanted no charms to flatter the foolish passion of the African magician, she sat down on a sofa expecting his arrival.

The magician came at the usual hour, and when he was sat down, the princess said to him, without doubt you are very much amazed to find me so much altered to-day from what I used to be. I have reflected on what you mentioned to me of Aladdin's fate, and I know my father's temper so well, that I am persuaded with you, that Aladdin could not escape feeling the effects of his rage ; therefore, since my tears and complaints cannot recall him to life again, why should I grieve ? for this reason, after I have done all that my love requires of me, I think I ought to endeavour to comfort myself. These are the motives of the change you see in me ; and to begin to cast off all melancholy, and banish it entirely, I am persuaded you will bear me company to night, and partake of a supper I have ordered to be dressed for us. But as I have no wine but what's of China, and I have a great desire to taste of the produce of Africa, I shall beg of you to get me some of the best.

The magician, full of the hopes of his expected happiness, rather flew than any thing else, returned quickly, with the wine. The princess, not doubting in the least but he would make haste, put the powder Aladdin gave

her into the cup that was set apart for that purpose. When they sat down at the table, they placed themselves opposite so each other, the magician's back being towards the banquet. The princess presented him with the best of the table. After they had eat some time, the princess called for some wine, and drank his health, and said to him, you were in the right to commend your wine, since I never tasted any so delicious in my life. When they had drank two or three cups more a piece, the princess, who had quite charmed the magician by her obliging behavior, gave the slave who served them with wine, the signal, bidding her at the same time to bring the magician and herself a full cup. When they both had their cups in their hands, she said to him, how are you used here to express your love, when drinking together as we are? with us in China, the lover and mistress reciprocally exchange cups, and drink each other's health; at the same time she presented her cup, and held out her hand to receive his. The magician who was eager to get his wine off first, drank up the very last drop: in the mean time the princess kept her's only at the lips, till she saw his eyes turn in his head, and fall backwards lifeless.

The princess had no occasion to order the back door to be opened to Aladdin, for the women were so disposed from the great hall, to the foot of the stair-case, that the word was no sooner given, that the African magician was fallen backwards, but the door was opened that instant.

As soon as Aladdin entered the hall, he saw the magician stretched on the sofa. The princess got off her seat, and ran overjoyed to him, to embrace him, but he stopped her and said, princess, this is not a proper time; oblige me, by letting me alone for a moment, and retire to your own apartment. When the princess, her women and eunuchs had gone out of the hall, Aladdin shut the door and going directly to the dead body of the magician opened his vest, and took out the lamp carefully wrapt up as the princess told him, and unfolding and rubbing it, the Genie immediately appeared. Genie, said Aladdin, I call thee to command thee to transport this palace immediately into China, to the same place from whence it was brought hither. The Genie disappeared, and immediately the palace was transported into China.

The first morning after the return of Aladdin's palace, the sultan went very early into his closet, to indulge his sorrows; and being very pensive, cast his eyes in a melancholy manner towards the place where he remembered the palace once stood, expecting only to see an open space; but perceiving that vacancy filled up, he at first imagined it to be the effects of a fog; but at last looking more attentively, he made no doubt but that it was his son-in-law's palace. Then joy and gladness succeeded sorrow and grief. He turned immediately into his apartment, and ordered an horse to be saddled and brought to him in all haste, which he that instant mounted, thinking he could not make haste enough to get to Aladdin's palace.

Aladdin who foresaw what would happen, rose that morning by day-break, put on one of the most magnificent habits his wardrobe afforded, and went up into the hall, from whence he perceived the sultan coming, and got down soon enough to receive him at the foot of the great staircase. Aladdin, said the sultan, I cannot speak to you till I have seen my daughter. He then led the sultan into the princess Badroulboudour's apartment, who had been told by him when he rose, that she was no longer in Africa, but in the capital of her father, and had just done dressing herself. The sultan embraced her with his face all bathed in tears of joy.

At last the sultan broke silence, and said, I would believe daughter, your joy to see me, makes you seem so little changed as if no misfortune had befallen; the princess, who took great pleasure in giving the sultan satisfaction, said, sir, I appear so little altered, I beg your majesty to consider that I received new life yesterday morning, by the presence of my dear husband and deliverer Aladdin, whom I looked upon and bewailed as lost to me; and the happiness of seeing and embracing him, has almost recovered me to my former state of health. But my greatest trouble was, not only to find myself forced from your majesty, and my dear husband, but the uneasiness I laboured under besides, was my fear that he, though innocent, should feel the effects of your rage, to which I knew he was left exposed. I suffered but little from the insolence of my ravisher, for having the ascendant over him, I always put a stop to his disagreeable discourse, and was as little restrained as at present.

As to what relates to my transportation, Aladdin had no hand in it, I myself was alone to blame, and he innocent.

Aladdin for his part had not much to tell the sultan, but told him how he had managed, and that as soon as he had found that he was dead, he took the lamp out of his breast, and by the same magic the magician made use of, removed the palace back again.

The sultan to be assured of the truth, rose up instantly, and went up into the hall, where, when he saw the African magician dead, he embraced Aladdin with a great deal of tenderness, and said, dont, son, take my proceedings against you ill, since they proceeded from my paternal love, and therefore you ought to excuse them. Sir, replied Aladdin, I have no reason to complain of your majesty's conduct, since you did nothing but what your duty required of you.

Aladdin ordered the magician's dead carcase to be removed and thrown on the dunghill, for the birds of the air to prey upon. In the meantime, the sultan commanded the drums to beat and the trumpets to sound, and a feast of ten days to be proclaimed, for joy of the princess Badroulboudour and Aladdin, and his palace's return.

Within a few years afterwards, the sultan died in a good old age, and as he left no male child, the princess Badroulboudour, as lawful heir to the crown succeeded him, and communicating the power to Aladdin, they reigned many years, and left a numerous and illustrious posterity behind them.

Three men, each blind of an eye, and dressed in Callenders habits, met at the house of Zobeide, an eminent lady of Bagdad, who requesting of them the cause thereof, and how they came to be so, one began as follows :

THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST CALLENDER, A KING'S SON.

MADAM, in order to inform you how I lost my right eye, and why I was obliged to put myself into a Callender's habit, I must tell you, I am a king's son, my father had a brother that reigned as he did, over a neighbouring kingdom ; and the prince his son and I were almost of an age.

After I had learned my exercises the king my father granted such liberty as suited my dignity, and I went cr-

derly every year to see my uncle, at whose court I diverted myself a month or two, and then returned again to my father's. In these journies was contracted a very firm friendship between the prince my cousin and myself. The last time I saw him he received me with greater kindness than usual: and resolved one day to give me a treat, he made great preparations for that purpose. We continued a long time at table, and after we had both supped very well, cousin, says he, you will hardly be able to guess how I have been employed since your last departure from hence; I have caused an edifice to be built which is not finished: so as one may dwell in it; you will not be displeased if I shew it to you: but first, you are to promise me upon oath that you will keep my secret.

I very readily took the oath he required of me: upon which he says to me, stay here till I return, I will be with you in a moment: and accordingly he came with a lady by the hand, of great beauty, and magnificently apparelled: he did not discover who she was, neither did I think it was manners in me to make enquiry. We sat down with this lady at table, where we continued some time, entertaining ourselves with discourses upon different subjects, and now and then a full glass to drink one another's health. After which the prince said, cousin, we must lose no time, therefore pray indulge me to take this lady along with you, and conduct her to such a place, where you will see a tomb newly built in the form of a dome; you can easily know it, the gate is open, go in there together and tarry till I come, which will be very speedily.

Being true to my oath, I made no farther enquiry, but took the lady by the hand, and by the directions which the prince my cousin had given me, I brought her to the place by the light of the moon, without missing one step of the way. We scarcely got there till we saw the prince following after, carrying a little pitcher with water, a hatchet, and a little bag with plaister.

The hatchet served to break down the empty sepulchre in the middle of the tomb; he took away the stones, and laid them in a corner. When all this was done, he dug up the ground, where I saw a trap-door under the sepulchre, which he lifted up, and underneath perceived the head of a staircase leading into a vault. Then my cousin speaking to

the lady, said, madam, it is by this way that we are to go to the place I told you of. Upon which the lady drew nigh and went down, the prince began to follow after ; but turning first to me, said, my dear cousin, I am infinitely obliged to you for the trouble you have been at, I thank you adieu.

Madam, said the Callender to Zobeide, I could get nothing further from him, but was obliged to take leave of him. As I returned to my uncle's palace ; the vapors of the wine got into my head : however I got to my apartment and went to bed. Next morning I fancied it was nothing but a dream. Being full of these thoughts, I sent to see if the prince was ready to receive a visit, but when they brought back word, that he did not lie in his own lodgings that night, they knew not what was become of him, and were in much trouble about it. I was sensibly afflicted at it ; and stealing away privately from my people, I went to the public burying place, where there was a vast number of tombs, like that which I had seen : I spent the day in viewing them one after another, but could not find that I sought for ; and then I spent four days successively in vain.

You must know, all this while the king, my uncle was a hunting, and I grew weary of standing for him ; and having prayed his ministers to make my apology to him at his return, I set out towards my father's court from whence I had never been so long before.

I left the ministers of the king my uncle in great trouble, to think what was become of the prince, my cousin ; but because of my oath I durst not tell any thing of what I had seen or knew, in order to make them easy.

I arrived at my father's capital, where contrary to custom, found a great guard at the gate of the palace, who surrounded me as I entered. I asked the reason, and the commanding officer replied, the army has proclaimed the grand vizier king, instead of your father, who is dead, and I take you prisoner in the name of the new king. At these words the guards laid hold of me and carried me before the tyrant. This rebel vizier had a mortal hatred to me a long time, upon this occasion. When I was a stripling, I loved to shoot in a cross bow, and being one day upon the terrace of the palace with my bow, a bird happened to come by I shot, but missed the bird, and hit the vizier, which put

out one of his eyes. As soon as I understood it, I not only sent to make my excuse to him, but did it in person. Yet he always resented it, and as opportunity offered made me sensible of it. But now, madam, that he had me in his power, he expressed his resentment in a barbarous manner; for he came to me like a madman, and thrusting his finger in my right eye, pulled it out.

But the usurper's cruelty did not stop there; he ordered me to be shut up in a box, and commanded the executioner to carry me into the country to cut off my head and leave me to be devoured. The hangman carried me thus shut up on horseback into the country, in order to execute the usurper's sentence but by my prayers and tears I moved the executioner's compassion. Go, says he to me, get you speedily out of the kingdom, and take heed of ever returning to it otherwise you will certainly meet your own ruin, and will be the cause of mine.

Being in such a condition, I could not travel far at a time. I retired to remote places while it was day, and travelled as far by night as my strength would allow me. I at last arrived in the dominions of the king my uncle, and came to his capital.

I gave him a long detail of the tragical cause of my return, and of the sad condition he saw me in. Alas! cries he, was it not enough for me to lose my son, but must I also have news of the death of a brother I loved so dearly, and see you also reduced to this? he told me how uneasy he was, that he could hear nothing of his son; notwithstanding all the enquiry he could make. At these words the unfortunate father burst out into tears, and I was so much afflicted, that it was impossible for me to keep the secret any longer, so notwithstanding my oath I told the king all that I knew.

His majesty listened to me with some sort of comfort, and when I had done, Nephew, says he, what you tell me gives me some hopes. I knew that my son ordered that tomb to be built, and can guess pretty near at the place; and with the idea you still have of it, I fancy we shall find it; but since you took your oath to keep it secret, I am of opinion, that we ought to go in quest of it alone, without saying any thing. But he had another reason for keeping it a secret, which he did not then tell me; and an important reason it was, as you will perceive by the sequel of my discourse.

We both disguised ourselves, went out by a door of the garden into the field, and found what we sought. I knew the tomb, and was the more rejoiced at it, because I had once sought it a long time in vain. We entered, and found the trap pulled down upon the entrance to the staircase : we had much ado to raise it, but at last we got it up.

We went down about fifty steps. When we came to the foot of the stairs, we found an anti-chamber full of very thick smoke, and ill scent, which obscured the lamp, that gave a very fine light.

From this anti-chamber we came into another, very large, supported by great columns, and lighted by several branch candlesticks. There was a cistern in the middle, and provisions of several sorts on the table, but we were much surprised to see no body. Before us there appeared an high sofa, which we mounted by several steps, and over this appeared a large bed, with the curtains drawn close. The king went up, and opening the curtains, perceived his son and the lady in bed together, both burnt and changed to a coal, as if they had been thrown into a great fire, and taken out again before they were consumed.

The king, instead of testifying his sorrow to see the prince in such a frightful condition, spit on his face, and said with an angry air. This is the punishment of this world, but that of the other will last to eternity ; and not content with this, he pulled off his sandel, and gave his son a great blow on the cheek with it.

I cannot express how much I was astonished, when I saw the king, my uncle, abuse the prince thus after he was dead. Sir, said I, whatever grief this dismal sight is capable to impress upon me. I am forced to suspend it, on purpose to ask your majesty what crime the prince, my cousin, may have committed, that his corps should deserve such treatment. Nephew, replied the king, I must tell you, that my son loved his sister from his infancy, and so did she him. I did not hinder their growing love, because I did not foresee its consequences. This tenderness increased as they grew in years, and came to such a head, that I dreaded the end of it : at last I applied such remedies as were in my power. I not only gave my son a severe reprimand in private, laying before him the foulness of the passion he was entertaining, and the eternal disgrace he would bring on my fam-

ily, if he persisted in such criminal courses ; but I also represented the same to my daughter ; and besides, I shut her up close that she could have no conversation with her brother. But that unfortunate creature had swallowed so much of the poison, that all the obstacles I could lay in the way, served only the more to enflame their love. My son being persuaded of his sister's constancy, on pretence of building a tomb, caused this subterraneous passage to be made, in hopes to find one day or other an opportunity to possess himself of that object, which was the cause of his flame, and to bring her hither. He laid hold on the time of my absence, to enter by force into the place of his sister's confinement but this is a thing which my honor would not suffer me to make public. And after so damnable an action, he came and inclosed himself and her in this place, and ought to be a subject of horror for all the world : but God, that would not suffer such an abomination, has justly punished them both. At these words he melted into tears, and I joined mine with his.

After a while, casting his eyes upon me. Dear nephew, cried he, embracing me, if I have 'ost that unworthy son. I shall happily find in you what will better supply his place.

We went up the same stairs again, and departed at last from this dismal place. We let down again the trap door, and covered it with earth and such other materials as the tomb was built of, on purpose to hide as much as lay in our power, so terrible an effect of the wrath of God.

We had not been very long got back to the palace, unperceived by any one, but we heard a confused noise, of trumpets, drums, and other instruments of war ; we soon understood by the thick clouds of dust which almost darkened the air, that it was the arrival of a formidable army. And it proved to be the vizier that had dethroned my father, with a vast number of troops coming to possess himself of my uncle's dominion also.

The prince who had then only his usual guards about him, could not resist so many enemies. They invested the city, and the gates being opened to them without any resistance, they became masters of the city, and broke into the palace where the king was, who defended himself till he was killed, and sold his life at a dear rate. For my part, I fought as well as I could for a while, but seeing we were forced to submit to a superior power, thought on my retreat and safe-

ty, which I had the good fortune to effect by some back way, and got to one of the king's servants on whom I could depend.

Being thus surrounded with sorrow, and persecuted by fortune, I had recourse to a stratagem, and putting on a callender's habit, I found it easy to get out of my uncle's kingdom, by taking the bye-roads.

In short, after a journey of several months, I arrived yesterday at the gates of this city, into which I entered about the dusk of the evening, and standing still a little while to revive my spirits, and consider on which hand I was to turn, this other Callender you see here next to me, came along; he saluted me, and I him. You appear, said I, to be a stranger: You are not mistaken, said he. He had no sooner returned this answer, but the third Callender you see there overtook us. He saluted us, and told us, he was a stranger newly come to Bagdad; so we joined company together.

Meanwhile it was late, and we knew not where to seek a lodging in the city, where we had no acquaintance, or had ever been before. But good fortune having brought us before your gate, we made bold to knock, when you received us with so much kindness, that we are incapable of returning you suitable thanks.

THE HISTORY OF THE SECOND CALLENDER, A KING'S SON.

MADAM, said he, to obey your command, and to shew you by what strange accident I became blind of the right eye, I must of necessity give you the whole account of my life.

I was scarce past my infancy, when the king my father, (for you must know, madam, I am a prince by birth) perceived that I was endowed with a great deal of sense, and sparing nothing that was proper for improving it. He employed all the men in his dominions, that excelled in sciences and arts, to be constantly about me.

No sooner had I learned to read and write, but I learned the alcoran from the beginning to the end by heart. I read the works of the most improved authors. I made myself perfect in polite learning, in the works of poets and versifications. I applied myself to geography, cronology, and to speak our Arabian language in its purity, not forgetting, in the meantime, all such exercises as were proper for a prince to understand. But one thing which I was mightily in love with, and succeeded in it to admira-

tion, was to form the characters of our Arabian language, wherein I surpassed all the writing masters of our kingdom.

Fame did more honor than I deserved, for she not only spread the renown of my parts through all the dominions of my father, but carried it as far as the Indian court, whose potent monarch, desirous to see me, sent an ambassador with rich presents, to demand me of my father, who was extremely glad of this embassy for several reasons: he was persuaded that nothing could be more recommendable to a prince of my age, than to travel and see foreign courts; and besides he was very glad to gain the friendship of the Indian sultan. I departed with the ambassador, but with no great retinue, because of the length and difficulty of the journey.

When we had travelled about a month, we discovered at a distance a great cloud of dust, and under that we saw very soon fifty horsemen, well armed, who were robbers, coming towards us at full gallop.

Madam, said the Callender, (always speaking to Zobeide) as we had ten horses laden with baggage and other presents, that I was to carry to the Indian sultan, from the king my father, and that my retinue was but small, you may easily judge that these robbers came boldly up to us; and not being in a posture to make any opposition, we told them, that we were ambassadors belonging to the sultan of the Indies, and hoped they would attempt nothing contrary to the respect that is due to him; thinking by this means to save our equipage and our lives. But the robbers most insolently replied, For what reason would you have us to shew any respect to the sultan your master? We are none of his subjects, nor are we upon his territories. And having spoke thus, they surrounded us. I defended myself as long as I could; but finding myself wounded, and seeing the ambassador with his servant and mine, lying on the ground, made use of what strength was yet remaining in my horse, who was also very much wounded, and separating myself from the crowd, rode away till he fell dead under me.

I continued my journey on for several days without finding any place of abode. But after a month's time, I came to a large town, well inhabited, and addressing myself to a taylor, whom I saw at work, he informed me where I was; and perceiving by my air, that I was a person of more note than my appearance bespoke me to be, made me sit down

by him, and asked me who I was, and from whence I came, and what brought me hither? I did not conceal any thing that had befallen me, nor make any scruple to discover my quality.

The taylor listened with attention to my words; but after I had done speaking, instead of giving me any consolation, he augmented my sorrow: Take heed says he, how you discover to any person what you have now declared to me; for the prince of this country is the greatest enemy that the king your father has; and he will certainly do you some mischief when he comes to hear of your being in this city.

I returned the taylor thanks for his good advice, and shewed myself inclinable wholly to follow his council, and assured him that his favor should never be forgotten by me. And as he believed I could not but be hungry, he caused them to bring me somewhat to eat, and offered me at the same time a lodging in his house, which I accepted. Some day after, finding me pretty well recovered of the fatigue I had endured, and being sensible that most princes of our religion did apply themselves to some art of calling, that might stand them in stead upon occasion, he asked me if I learned any thing whereby I might get a livelihood. I told him that I understood the laws both divine and human; that I was a grammarian and poet, and above all, that I understood writing perfectly well. By all this, says he, you will not be able in this country to purchase yourself one morsel of bread; nothing is of less use than these sciences. But if you will be advised by me, dress yourself in a laborer's habit; and since you appear to be strong and of a good constitution, you shall go into the next forest, and cut down fire-wood, which you may bring to the market to be sold; and I can assure you, it will turn to so good an account, that you may live by it without dependence upon any man. I will take care to supply you with a rope and a hatchet.

The fear of being known, and the necessity I was under of getting a livelihood, made me agree to this proposal, notwithstanding all the meanness and hardships that attended it. The day following the taylor brought me a rope, a hatchet, and a short coat, and recommended me to some poor people that gained their bread after the same manner, they might take me in their company. They conducted me to the wood, and the first day I brought in as

much upon my head as brought me in a half a piece of gold, which is the money of that country. I gained a good sum of money in a short time, and repaid my taylor what he advanced for me.

I continued this way of living for a whole year; and one day that by chance I was gone further into the wood than usual, I happened to light on a very pleasant place, where I began to cut down wood; and in pulling up the root of a tree, I espied an iron ring fastened to a trap door of the same metal. I took away the earth that covered it, and having lifted it up, saw stairs, which I went down with my axe in my hand.

When I was come to the bottom of the stairs I found myself in a large palace, which put me in a mighty consternation, because of the great light which appeared as clear in it, as if it had been above ground in the open air. I went forward into a gallery, supported by pillars of jasper, the basis and chapter of massy gold; but seeing a lady of a noble and free air, and extraordinary beautiful, coming towards me, this turned my eyes from beholding any other object but her alone.

Being desirous (says he) to spare the lady the trouble to come to me, I made haste to meet her; and as I was saluting her with a low bow, she asked me What are you a man or a Genie? A man, madam, said I. I have no correspondence with a Genie. By what adventures, said she, (fetching a deep sigh) are you come hither? I have lived here these twenty-five years, and never saw any man but yourself during that time.

I gave her a true account by what strange accident she saw in me the son of a king, in such a condition as I then appeared in her presence; and how fortune would have it; that I should discover the entrance into that magnificent prison, where I had found her, but in an uneasy condition according to appearance.

Alas! prince, said she, (sighing once more) you have, just reason to believe this rich and pompous prison cannot be otherwise than the most wearisome abode; the most charming palaces in the world being no wise delightful, when we are detained there contrary to our will. It is not possible but you have heard of the king of the isle of Ebene, so called from that precious wood it produces. I am the princess his daughter.

The king, my father, had chosen for me a husband, a prince that was my cousin ; but on my wedding night, in the midst of the rejoicing, there was in the court a Genie, who took me away : I fainted at the same moment ; but when I came to myself again, I found myself in this palace, where I must confess I have every thing I can wish for necessary to life.

Every ten days, says the princess, the Genie comes hither to lie with me one night, which he never exceeds, and the excuse he makes for it is, that he is married to another wife, who would grow jealous, if she came to know how unfaithful he was to her. Meanwhile, if I have occasion for him by day or night, as soon as I touch a talisman which is at the entrance into my chamber, the Genie appears. It is now the fourth day since he was here, and I do not expect him before the end of six more ; so if you please you may stay five days, and keep me company. I thought myself too fortunate to refuse so obliging a proffer. The princess made me go into a bagnio, and when I came forth, instead of my own cloaths, I found another very costly suit, which I did not esteem so much for richness, as that it made me look worthy to be in her company. We sat down on a sofa covered with rich tapestry : and soon after she uncovered a rich table with several delicious meats. We eat together, and passed the remaining part of the day with very much satisfaction ; and at night she received me into her bed.

The next day, as she contrived all manner of ways to please me, she brought in at dinner a bottle of old wine, the most excellent that was ever tasted, and out of complaisance she drank some part of it with me. When my head grew hot with the agreeable liquor, Fair princess, said I, you have been too long thus buried alive, come follow me, and enjoy the real day, from which you have been deprived so many years. Prince, replied she, with a smile, leave this discourse, if you out of ten days will grant me nine, and resign the last to the Genie, the fairest day that ever was, would be nothing in my esteem. Princess, said I, it is the fear of the Genie, that makes you speak thus ; for my part I value him so little, that I will break his talisman, with the conjuration that is wrote about it, in pieces. Let him come, and how brave and redoubtable soever he be, I shall make him feel the weight of my arm. I swear solemnly, that I will extirpate all the Genies in the world,

and him first. The princess, who knew the consequence, conjured me not to touch the talisman, for that would be the means, said she, to ruin both you and me. I know what belongs to Genies better than you. The fumes of the wine did not suffer me to hearken to her reasons but I gave the talisman a kick with my foot, and broke it in several pieces.

The talisman was no sooner broke, but the palace began to shake, and was ready to fall, with hideous noise like thunder, accompanied with flashes of lightning. This terrible noise in a moment dispelled the fumes of my wine, and made me sensible, but too late, of the folly I had committed. Princess, cried I, what means this? She answered in a fright, Alas! you are undone, if you do not escape presently.

I followed her advice, and my fears was so great, that I forgot my hatchet and cords. I was scarcely got to the stairs by which I came down, till the enchanted palace opened and made passage for the Genie. He asked the princess in great anger, What has happened to you, and why did you call me? A qualm at my stomach, said the princess, made me fetch this bottle which you see here, out of which I drank twice or thrice, and by mischance made a false step, and fell upon the talisman, which is broke; and that is all the matter.

At this answer, the furious Genie told her you are a false woman and a liar, how come that axe, and those ropes here? I never saw them till this moment, said the princess. Your coming in such an impetuous manner has it may be, forced them upon some place as you come along, and so brought them hither without your knowing it.

The Genie made no other answer but what was accompanied with reproaches and blows, of which I heard the noise. I could not bear to hear the cries and shouts of the princess. I had already taken off the suit she made me put on, and took my own, which I had laid on the stairs the day before; when I came out of the bagnio, I made haste upstairs, being so much more full of sorrow and compassion, that I had been the cause of so great a misfortune, and that by sacrificing the fairest princess on earth to the barbarity of a merciless Genie. I was become the most criminal and ungrateful of all mankind. I let down the trap, covered it again with earth, and returned to the city with a burden of wood, which I hauled up without knowing what I did.

so great was my trouble and sorrow.

My landlord the taylor was very much rejoiced to see me ; your absence, said he, has disquieted me very much, by reason you had entrusted me with the secret of your birth, and I knew not what to think : I thanked him for his zeal and affection, but never a word durst I say of what passed, nor the reason why I came back without my hatchet. I retired to my chamber, where I reproached myself a thousand times for my excessive imprudence.

While I was thus giving myself over to melancholy thoughts the taylor came in, and told me, an old man, said he, whom I do not know, brings me here your hatchet and cords, which he found on his way, as he tells me, and understood by your comrades that go along with you to the woods, that you lodge here ; come out and speak to him, for he will deliver them to none but yourself.

At this discourse I changed colour, and fell a trembling : while the taylor was asking me the reason, my chamber-door opened at once, and the old man appeared with my hatchet and cords. This was the Genie, the ravisher of the princess of the isle of Ebene, who had disguised himself after treating her with the utmost barbarity. I am a Genie, said he, speaking to me ; is not this your hatchet, and are not these your cords ?

After the Genie had put the question to me, he gave me no time to answer, nor was it in my power, so much had his terrible aspect put me beside myself. He grasped me by the middle, dragged me out of the chamber, and mounted into the air, carried me as high as the skies, with such swiftness, that I was not able to take notice where he carried me. He descended in like manner to the earth, which on a sudden he caused to open with a knock of his foot, and so sunk down at once, where I found myself in the enchanted palace, before the fair princess of the isle of Ebene. But alas ! what a spectacle was there ! I saw that which pierced my heart : this poor princess was quite naked, all in blood, and laid upon the ground more like one dead than alive, with her cheeks all bathed in tears.

Perfidious wretch, said the Genie to her, pointing at me, is not this your gallant ? She cast her languishing eyes upon me, and answered mournfully, I do not know him, I never saw him till this moment. What, says the Genie, he is the cause of thy being in the condition thou art justly in ; and yet darest thou say thou dost not know him ? If I do not know him, said the princess, would you have me lie on purpose to ruin him ? Oh then, said the Genie, pulling out a scimiter, and presenting it to the princess, if you never saw him before, take the scimiter and cut off his head. Alas ! replied the princess, how is it possible that I should execute what you would force me to do ? my strength is so far spent that I cannot lift up my arm ; and if I was able, how should I have the heart to take an innocent man's life, and one I dont know ? This refusal, said the Genie to the princess, informs me of thy crime. Upon which, turning to me, and thou, said he, dost thou not know her ?

I should have been the most ungrateful wretch, and the most scoundrel of all mankind, if I had not shewn myself as faithful to

the princess as she was to me, who had caused her misfortunes. Therefore I answered the Genie, how should I know her, that never saw her, till now ? if it be so, said he, take the scimiter and cut off her head. On this condition I will set thee at liberty, for then I shall be convinced that thou didst never see her till this very moment. With all my heart, replied I, and took the scimiter in my hand.

Do not think, madam, that I drew near to the fair princess of Isle Ebene, to be the executioner of the Genie's barbarity ; I did it only to demonstrate by my behavior as much as possible, that as she had shewn a resolution to sacrifice her life for my sake, that I would not refuse to sacrifice mine for her's. The princess, notwithstanding her pain and suffering, understood my meaning : which she signified by an obliging look, and made me understand her willingness to die for me ; and that she was satisfied to see how willing I was to die for her. Upon this I stepped back, and threw the scimiter on the ground. I shall forever, says I to the Genie, be hateful to all mankind, should I be so base as to murder, I do not only say, a person whom I do not know, but also a lady like this, who is ready to give up the ghost ; do with me what you please, since I am in your power, I cannot obey your barbarous commands.

I see, said the Genie, that you both out brave me, and insult my jealousy ; yet both of you shall know by the treatment I give you, what I am capable to do. At these words the monster took up the scimiter and cut off one of her hands, which only left her so much life as to give me a token with the other, that she bid me forever adieu. The blood she had lost before, and that which gushed out then did not permit her to live above one or two moments. The sight of this threw me into a fit. When I was come to myself, look ye, says he, how Genies treat their wives whom they suspect of unfaithfulness ; she has received you here : and were I certain she had put any farther affront on me, I would make thee to die this minute, but I will content myself to transform thee into a dog, ass, lion, or bird, take thy choice of any of these, I will leave it to thyself.

These words gave me some hopes to mollify him, O Genie, said I, moderate your passion, since you will not take away my life, give it me generously ; I shall always remember your clemency, if you pardon me, as one of the best men in the world pardoned his neighbour that bore him a mortal hatred. The Genie asked me what passed between those two neighbours, and said he would have patience till he heard the story, which I told him thus :

THE STORY OF THE ENVIOUS MAN, AND OF HIM THAT HE ENVIED.

IN a considerable town two persons dwelt next door to one another ; one of them conceived such a violent hatred against the other, that he who was hated, resolved to move his dwelling farther off, being persuaded that their being neighbors was the only cause from whence his animosity did arise : for though he had done him several pieces of service, he found his hatred nothing diminished ; he therefore sold his house, and retired to the capitol city of that kingdom, which was not far off. He bought a little spot of ground,

which lay about half a league from the city ; he had a house convenient enough, with a fine garden, and a spacious court, wherein there was a deep well, which was not in use.

The honest man having made this purchase, put on a dervise, or monk's habit, to lead a retired life, and caused several cells to be made in his house, where in a short time he established a numerous society of dervises ; he came soon to be publicly known by his virtue, through which he acquired the esteem of a great many people, as well of the commonality as of the chief of the city.

The great reputation of this honest man having spread to the town from whence he came, it touched the envious man so much to the quick, that he left his house and affairs with a resolution to go and ruin him. With this intent he went to the new convent of dervises, of which his former neighbor was the head, who received him with all imaginable tokens of friendship. The envious man told him that he was come on purpose to communicate a business of importance to him, which he would not do but it private. And because that nobody should hear them, said he, let us, take a walk in your court ; and seeing night began to draw on, command your dervises to retire to their cells. The head of the dervises did as he required.

When the envious man saw that he was alone with this good man, he began to tell him his errand, walking side by side in the court till he saw an opportunity ; and getting the good man to the brink of the well, he gave him a thrust, and pushed him into it, without any body's being witness to so wicked an action. Having done this he marched off immediately, got out of the gate of the convent without being known to any one, and came home very well satisfied with his journey, being fully persuaded that the object of his hatred was no more in the world, but found himself highly mistaken.

The old well, says he, was inhabited by fairies and genies, which happened luckily for the relief of the head of the convent ; they received and supported him to the bottom, so that he got no hurt. He perceived well enough that there was something extraordinary in his fall which must otherwise have cost him his life ; whereas he never saw nor felt any thing. But he soon heard a voice, which said, do you know what honest man this is to whom we have done this piece of service ? another voice answered no. To which the first replied, then I will tell you. This man out of charity, the greatest ever was known, left the town he lived in, and has established himself in this place, in hopes

to cure one of his neighbours of the envy he had conceived against him ; he had acquired such general esteem, that the envious man, not able to endure it, came here on purpose to ruin him. which he had performed, had it not been for the assistance we have given this honest man, whose reputation is so great, that the sultan was to pay him a visit to-morrow, to recommend the princess his daughter to his prayers.

Another voice asked what need had the princess of the dervise's prayers ? to which the first answered, it seems she is possessed by the Genie Maimon the son of Dimdim, who is fallen in love with her. But I know how the dervise may cure her, the thing is very easy, and I will tell it you. He has a black cat in his convent, with a white spot at the end of her tail, about the bigness of a small piece of silver money. Let him only pull seven hairs out of this white spot, burn them, and smoke the princess's head with the fume. she will not only presently be cured, but be so safely delivered from Maimon, the son of Dimdim, that he will never dare to come near her a second time.

The head of the dervises remembered every word of this discourse between the fairies and the genies, who were silent all the night after. The next morning by break of day, that he could discern one thing from another, the well being broke down in several places, he saw a whole by which he crept out with ease.

The other dervises, who had been seeking for him, were rejoiced to see him ; he gave them a brief account of the wickedness of that man whom he had given so kind a reception the day before, and retired into his cell. It was not long till the cat, as usual, came to fawn upon her master ; he took her up, and pulled seven hairs out of the white spot that was upon her tail, and laid them aside for his own use when occasion should serve.

The sun was not high, when the sultan, who left no means untried that he thought could restore the princess to her perfect health, arrived at the gate of the convent. He commanded his guards to halt, whilst he with the principal officers went in. The dervises received him with profound respect.

The sultan called their head aside, and says, good Scheib, it may be you know already the cause of my coming hither. Yes, sir, replies he, it is the decease of the princess which procures me this honor. That's the very thing, re-

plied the sultan. You will give me new life, if your prayers can procure my daughter's health. Sir, said the good man, if your majesty will be pleased to let her come hither, I am in hopes that, through God's assistance and favor, she shall return in perfect health.

The prince, transported with joy, sent immediately to fetch his daughter, who very soon appeared, with a numerous train of ladies and eunuchs, but masked so ; that her face was not seen. The chief of the dervises caused a pall to be thrown over her head, and he no sooner threw the seven tufts of hair upon the burning coals, but the Genie, son of Dimdium, gave a great cry, without any thing being seen, and left the princess at liberty, upon which she took off her veil, and rose up to see where she was, saying, where am I, and who brought me hither ? At these words, the sultan, overcome with excess of joy, embraced his daughter, and kissed her eyes ; he also kissed the chief of the dervise's hands, and said to his officers, Tell me your opinion, what reward does he deserve that has cured my daughter ? They all cried he deserves her in marriage. That is what I had in my thoughts, said the sultan ; and I make him my son-in-law from this moment. Sometime after the prime vizier died, and the sultan conferred the place upon the dervise. The sultan also died without male heirs ; upon which the religious orders and militia gathered together, and the honest man was declared sultan by general consent.

The honest dervise, said he, being mounted on the throne of his father-in-law, as he was one day in the midst of his courtiers upon a march, espied the envious man amongst the crowd as he passed along, and calling to one of his viziers that attended him, whispered in his ear thus : Go bring me that man you see there ; but have a care you do not frighten him. The vizier obeyed, and when the envious man was brought into his presence, the sultan said, Friend, I am extremely glad to see you. Upon which he called to an officer, go immediately, says he, and cause to be paid to the man out of my treasury 100 pieces of gold, and 20 loads of the riches merchandize in my store, and a guard to conduct him to his house.

When I had finished the recital of this story of the Genie to the murderer of the princess of the isle of Ebenie, I made application to him thus, O Genie, you see how that this bountiful sultan did not content himself to have forgot the design of the envious man to take his life, but treated him

kindly, and sent him back with all the favors which I just now related.—In short, I made use of all my eloquence, praying him to imitate such a good example, and to grant me pardon : but it was impossible for me to move his compassion.

All that I can do for thee, said he, is, that I will not take thy life, dont flatter thyself that I will send thee safe back. I must let thee feel what I am able to do by my enchantment ; with that he laid violent hands on me, and carried me across the vault of the subterraneous palace which opened to give him passage, he flew up with me so high, that the earth seemed only like a little white-cloud ; he then came down like lightning, and alighted on the ridge of the mountain.

When he took up a handful of earth, and pronounced^d or rather muttered some words which I did not understand, and threw it upon me, leave the shape of a man, says he to me, and take that of an ape. He vanished immediately, and left me alone transformed into an ape, overwhelmed with sorrow in a strange country, not knowing if I was near unto or far from my father's dominions.

I went down from the height of the mountain, and came into a plain country, which took me a month to travel through, and when I came to the sea, it happened then to be a great calm, and I espied a vessel about half a league from shore. I could not lose this good opportunity ; but broke off a large branch from a tree, which I carried to the sea-side, and set myself astride upon it, with a stick in each hand, to serve me as oars.

I launched out in this posture, and advanced near the ship. When I was nigh enough to be known, the seamen and passengers that were upon deck thought it an extraordinary spectacle, and all of them looked upon me with great astonishment. In the meantime I got on board, and catching a rope, I jumped upon the deck, and not having speech, I found myself in a very great perplexity ; and indeed the risque I ran then, was no less then when I was at the mercy of the Genie

The merchants being both superstitious and scrupulous, believed that I should occasion some mischief to their voyage if they received me ; therefore says one, I will knock him down with a handspike ; says another, I will shoot an arrow through his guts ; says a third, let us throw him into

the sea. Some of them would not have failed to execute their design, if I had not got myself to that side where the captain was, when I threw myself at his feet, and took him by the coat in a begging posture. The action, together with the tears which he saw gush out of my eyes, moved his compassion : so that he took me into his protection ; threatened to be revenged on any that hurt me ; and he himself was very kind to me. And on my part, though I had no power to speak, I did by my gestures shew all possible signs of gratitude.

The wind that succeeded the calm was gentle and favorable, and did not alter for fifty-days, but brought us safe to the port of a fine town, well peopled, and of great trade, where we came to an anchor : it was so much the more considerable, that it was the capital city of a powerful state.

Our vessel was immediately surrounded with a great number of boats full of people ; and among the rest, some officers came on board desiring to speak with our merchants in the name of the sultan. The merchants appearing, one of the officers told them that the sultan, our master, hath commanded us to acquaint you that he is glad of your safe arrival, and prays every one of you to write a few lines on this paper : that his design may be understood, you must know that we had a prime vizier, who besides a great capacity to manage affairs, understood writing to the highest perfection. The minister is lately dead, at which the sultan is very much troubled, and since he has made a solemn vow, not to give the place to any man but to him that can write as well as he did. Abundance of people have presented their writings but nobody in all the empire have been judged worthy to supply the vizier's place.

Those merchants that believed they could write enough to pretend to this high dignity, wrote one after another what they thought fit. After they had done, I advanced, and took the roll out of the gentleman's hands, but all the people, especially the merchants, cried out, he will tear it, or throw it into the sea, till they saw how properly I held the roll ; and made a sign that I would write in my turn. Then they were of another opinion, and their fears turned into admiration. However, since they had never seen an ape that could write, nor could be persuaded that I was more ingenious than other apes, they offered to snatch the roll out of my hand ; but the captain took my part once more. Let him alone, said he, suffer him to

write, if he only scribbles the paper I promise you that I will punish him. If on the contrary he writes well, as I hope he will, because I never saw an ape so handy and ingenious, and so apprehensive of any thing, I do declare that I will own him as my son ; I had one that had not by far the wit he has. Perceiving that no man did any more oppose his design, I took the pen and wrote, and before I had done, six sorts of hands used among the Arabians, and each specimen an extemporary distich or quatrain in praise of the sultan. My writing did not only out-do that of the merchants, but I dare say they had not seen any such writing in that country. When I had done the officers carried the roll to the sultan.

The sultan took little notice of any of the other writings, but considered mine, which was so much to his liking that he says to his officers, take the finest horses in my stable, with the richest harness, and a robe of the most sumptuous brocade to put upon the person that wrote these six hands, and bring him hither to me. At this commands the officers could not forbear laughing ; the sultan grew angry at their boldness, and was ready to punish them, till they told him, sir, we humbly beg your majesty's pardon, these hands were not wrote by a man but an ape. What do you say ? says the sultan ; those admirable characters, are they not writ by the hand of a man ? No, sir, replied the officers, we do assure your majesty, that it was an ape who wrote them in our presence. The sultan was too much surprised at this account, not to desire a sight of me, and therefore says, do what I command you, and bring me speedily that wonderful ape.

The officers returned to the vessel, and shewed the captain their order, who answered the sultan's commands must be obeyed. Whereupon they cloathed me with that rich brocade robe, and carried me ashore, where they set me on horseback, whilst the sultan waited for me at the palace with a great number of courtiers, whom he had gathered together to do me the more honor.

I found the prince sat on his throne in the midst of his grandees : I made my bow three times very low, and at last I kneeled and kissed the ground before him, and afterwards sat down in my seat in the posture of an ape. The whole assembly admired me, and could not comprehend how it was possible an ape should understand so well, to give the sultan his due respect ; and he himself was more

astonished than any man. In short the ceremony of the audience would have been complete, could I have added a speech to my behavior ; but apes never speak, and the advantage I had of being a man did not allow me that privilege.

The sultan dismissed the courtiers, and none remained by him but the chief of the eunuchs. He went from his chamber of audience into his own apartment, where he ordered dinner to be brought. As he sat at table, he gave me a sign to come near and eat with him. To shew my obedience, I kissed the ground, stood up, and sat me down at table, and eat with discretion, and moderately.

Before the table was uncovered, I espied an inkhorn, which I made a sign should be brought me : having got it, I wrote upon a large peach some verses after my way, which testified my acknowledgment to the sultan ; who read them after my presenting him the peach ; it increased his astonishment. When the table was uncovered, they brought him a particular liquor, of which he caused them to give me a glass. I drank, and wrote some new verses upon it, which explained the state I was in, after a great many sufferings. The sultan read them likewise, and said, an ape that was capable of doing so much, ought to be exalted above the greatest of men.

The sultan ordered them to bring in a chess-board, and asked me by a sign, if I understood that game, and would play with him. I kissed the ground, and laying my hand upon my head, signified that I was ready to receive the honor. He won the first game, but I won the second and third ; and perceiving he was somewhat displeased at it, I made a quatrain to pacify him, in which I told him, that two potent armies had been fighting eagerly all day, but that they made up a peace towards evening, and passed the remaining part of the night very peaceably. So many things appeared to the sultan, far beyond whatever any one had ever seen or knew of the behavior and knowledge of apes, he would not be the only witness of these prodigies himself : but having a daughter, called the lady of beauty, to whom the head of the eunuchs was governor, go, said the sultan to him, and bid your lady come hither : I am willing she shall share in the pleasure.

The eunuch went, and immediately brought the princess, who had her face uncovered ; but she was no sooner got into the room, than she put on her veil, and said to thy

sultan, Sir, I am very much surprised that your majesty has sent for me to appear among men. How, daughter! said the sultan, you do not know what you say! here is nobody but the eunuch your governor, and myself who have the liberty to see your face; and yet you lower your veil, and would make me a criminal in having sent for you hither. Sir, said the princess, your majesty shall soon understand that I am not in the wrong. That ape you see before you, though he has the shape of an ape, is a young prince, son of a great king; he has been metamorphosed into an ape, by enchantment. A Genie the son of a daughter of Eblis has maliciously done him this wrong after having cruelly taken away the life of the princess of the isle of Ebene.

The sultan, astonished at this discourse, turned towards me, and spoke no more by signs, but in plain words, asked me, if it was true what his daughter said. Seeing I could not speak, I put my hand to my head to signify that what the princess said was true. Upon this the sultan said again to his daughter, how do you know that this prince has been transformed by enchantment into an ape? Sir, replied the lady of beauty, your majesty may remember that when I was past my infancy, I had an old lady who waited on me; she was a most expert magician, and taught me 70 rules of magic, by virtue of which I can transport your city into the sea in the twinkling of an eye, or beyond Mount Caucasus. By this science all enchanted persons are known to me at first sight; I know who they are and by whom enchanted. Therefore do not admire, if I should forthwith relieve the prince in despite of the enchantments from that which hinders him to appear what he naturally is. Daughter, said the sultan, I did not believe you to have known so much. Sir, replied the princess, these things are curious and worth knowing; but I think I ought not to brag of them. Since it is so, said the sultan, can you dispel the prince's enchantments? Yes, sir, replied she, I can restore him to his right shape. Do it then, said the sultan, you cannot do me a greater pleasure; for I will have him to be my vizier, and he shall marry you. Sir, said the princess, I am ready to obey you in all you shall command.

The princess then went into an apartment from whence she brought a knife, which had Hebrew engraved on

the blade. She made us all, viz. the sultan, the master of the eunuchs, and myself, go down into a private court adjoining to the palace, and there left us under a gallery that went round it; she placed herself in the middle of the court, where she made a great circle, and within it she wrote several words in Arabian characters, some of them ancient, and others which they call the characters of Cleopatra.

When she had finished and prepared the circle as she thought fit, she placed herself in the centre of it, where she began adjurations, and repeated verses from the alcoran. The air grew insensibly dark as if it was night, and the world about to be dissolved. We found ourselves struck with a panic fear, which increased the more, when we saw the Genie, the son of the daughter of Eblis, appear all of a sudden in the shape of a lion of a frightful size.

As soon as the princess perceived this monster, you dog, said she, instead of creeping before me, dare you present yourself in this shape, thinking to frighten me? And thou, replied the lion, art thou not afraid to break the treaty which you solemnly made and confirmed between us by oath, not to wrong or do one another any hurt? O thou cursed creature, replied the princess, I can justly reproach thee with doing so. The lion answered fiercely, thou shalt quickly have the reward for the trouble thou hast given me to return: with that he opened his terrible throat and ran at her to devour her, but she, being on her guard, leaped backward, got time to pull out one of her hairs, and pronouncing three or four words, changed herself into a sharp sword, wherewith she cut the lion through the middle in two pieces.

The two parts of the lion soon vanished, and the head only left, which changed itself into a huge scorpion, immediately the princess changed herself into a serpent, and fought the scorpion; who, finding himself worsted, took the shape of an eagle and flew away: but the serpent at the same time took also the shape of an eagle, that was black and much stronger, and pursued him, so that we lost sight of them both.

Some time after they had disappeared, the ground opened before us, and out of it there came a cat, black and white, with her hair standing upright, and keeping a fearful mewling; then a black wolf followed her close, and

gave her no time to rest. The cat being thus hard beset, changed herself into a worm, and being nigh to a pomegranate, that had accidentally fallen from a tree that grew on the side of a canal, which was deep but not broad, the worm pierced the pomegranate in an instant, and hid itself, but the pomegranate swelled immediately, and became as big as a gourd, which mounted up to the top of the gallery, and rolled about there for some time, fell down again into the court, and broke in pieces.

The wolf, who had in the meanwhile transformed itself into a cock, fell picking up the seeds of the pomegranate one after the other, but finding no more, came towards us with his wings spread, making a great noise as if he would ask us whether there was any more seed. There was one lying on the brink of the canal, which the cock perceiving as he went back, ran speedily thither; but just as he was going to pick it up, the seed rolled into the river and turned into a fish.

The cock jumped into the river, and was turned into a pike, and pursued the small fish; they continued both under water above two hours, and we knew not what was become of them, but all of a sudden we heard terrible cries, which made us quake, and a little while after we saw them all in flames: they threw ashes of fire out of their mouths at one another till they came hand to hand, then the fires increased, with a thick burning smoke, which rose so high that we feared it would set the palace on fire. But we soon had a more pressing occasion of fear, for the Genie having got loose from the princess, came to the gallery where we stood, and blew flames of fire upon us. We had all perished if the princess running to our assistance, had not forced him to retire, and defend himself against her; yet notwithstanding all her diligence she could not hinder the sultan's beard from being burnt, and his face spoiled; the chief of the eunuchs from being stifled and burnt on the spot, nor a spark to enter my right eye and make it blind. The sultan and I expecting nothing but death, when we heard a cry of victory! victory! and suddenly the princess appeared in her natural shape, but the Genie was reduced to ashes.

The princess came near to us, and that she might not lose time, called for a cup full of water, which a young slave brought her: she took it, and pronouncing some words over it, threw it upon me, saying, if thou art become

an ape by enchantment, change thy shape to that which thou hadst before.

These words were hardly uttered till I became a man, as I was before, one eye excepted.

I was preparing myself to give thanks to the princess, but she prevented me, by addressing herself to her father, thus, sir I got the victory over the Genie, as you may see, but it is a victory that costs me dear: I have but a few moments to live, and you will not have the satisfaction to make the match you intended: the fire has pierced me during the terrible combat, and I find it consumes me by degrees; this would not have happened had I perceived the last pomegranate seed and swallow'd it as I did the others, when I changed me into a cock. The Genie had fled thither as to his last entrenchment, and upon the success of that, the combat depended, which would have been successful, and without danger to me. The slip obliged me to have recourse to fire, and fight with those mighty arms as I did between heaven and earth in your presence; for in spite of all his redoubtable art and experience, I made him know I understood more than he. I have reduced him to ashes, but I cannot escape death. The sultan suffered the princess to go on with the recital of her combat, and when she was done he spoke to her in a tone that sufficiently testified his grief. My daughter, said he, you see what a condition your father is in; alas! I wonder that I am yet alive! your governor, the eunuch is dead, and the prince whom you have delivered from his enchantment has lost one of his eyes. He could speak no more, for the tears, sighs, and sobs, made him speechless; his daughter and I were exceeding sensible of his sorrow, and wept with him.

In the meantime, while we were striving to outdo one another in grief, the princess cried, I burn! Oh! I burn. She found that the fire which consumed her, at last seized her body, which made her still cry, I burn, until death had made an end of her intollerable pains. The effects of that fire was so extraordinary, that in a few moments she was wholly reduced to ashes.

The sultan being affected beyond all that can be imagined, cried out piteously, and beat himself on his head and stomach until such time as, being overcome with grief, he fainted away. In the meantime the eunuchs and officers came running at the sultan's cries, and with very

much ado brought him to himself again. There was no need of that prince and me to give them a long narrative of this adventure, in order to convince them of their grief. The two heaps of ashes, into which the princess and the Genie had been reduced was demonstration enough. The sultan was forced to be supported to his apartment.

When the noise of this tragical event had spread itself through the palace and city all the people bewailed the misfortune of the princess, and were sensible of the sultan's affliction. Every one was in deep mourning for seven days, and a great many ceremonies were performed; the ashes of the Genie were thrown into the air; but those of the princess were gathered into a precious urn to be kept, and the urn was sent to a stately tomb, which was built on purpose.

The grief which the sultan conceived for the loss of his daughter threw him into a fit of sickness, that confined him to his chamber for a whole month. He had not fully recovered his strength when he sent for me, prince, said he, hearken to the orders which I now give you, it will cost you your life if you do not put them into execution. I assured him of exact obedience; upon which he went on thus, I have lived in perfect felicity, and was never crossed by any accident, but by your arrival all my happiness is vanished; my daughter and her governor are dead, and through a miracle I live. You are the cause of all these misfortunes, for which it is impossible I shall be comforted: therefore depart from hence in peace, but without further delay, for I myself must perish if you stay any longer. I am persuaded that your presence brings mischief with it; that is all I have to say. Depart and take care of appearing again in my dominions; there is no consideration whatsoever, shall hinder me from making you repeat for it. I was going to speak, but he stopt my mouth by words full of anger; and so I was obliged to move from his palace, rejected and banished, thrown off by the world and not knowing what would become of me. Before I left the city, I went into a bagnio, where I caused my beard and my eye-brows to be shaved, and put on a callender's habit. I began my journey, not so much imploring my own miseries, as the death of the two fair princesses of which I have been the occasion. I passed through many countries without making myself known; at last I resolved to come to Bagdad in hopes to get myself introduced to the command-

er of the faithful to move his compassion, by giving him an account of my strange adventures. I came hither this evening, and the first man I met was the callender, our brother, that spoke before me. You know the remaining part, madam, and the cause of my having the honor to be here.

The story of the third Callender, a King's Son.

Most honorable Lady,

THAT which I am going to tell you differs very much from what you have heard already. The two princes that spoke before me have each lost an eye by the effects of their destiny, but mine I lost by my own fault.

My name is Agib, I am the son of a king, who was called Cassib; after his death I took possession of his dominions, and resided in the same city where he had lived.

The first thing I did was to visit the provinces; I afterwards caused to fit out and man my fleet, and went to my islands to gain the hearts of my subjects by my presence, and to confirm them in their loyalty; and sometime after I returned I went thither again. These voyages giving me some taste of navigation, I took so much pleasure in it, that I resolved to make some discoveries beyond my island, to which end I caused ten ships to be fitted out, embarked on board, and set sail.

Our voyage was very successful for 40 days together, but, on the 40th night the wind became so boisterous, that we were like to have been lost in the storm. About break of day the wind calmed and the clouds were dispersed, and the sun having brought back fair weather, we came close to land, where we remained two days to take in fresh provision; this being done, we put off again to sea. After ten days sail we were in hopes of seeing land, for the tempest we had gone through, had so much abated my curiosity, that I gave orders to steer to my own coasts: but I perceived at the same time that my pilot knew not where we were. Upon the 10th day, a seaman being sent out to look for land from the main mast head, he gave notice, that on star-board and larboard he could see nothing but the sky and sea, which bounded the horizon; but just before us on the stern, he saw a great blackness.

The pilot changed colour at this relation, and cried, oh, sir, we are all lost, not one of us will escape; and with all my skill it is not in my power to prevent it.

I asked him what reason he had thus to despair? He told me, "The tempest which we had outlived, had brought

us so far out of the course, that to-morrow about noon, we shall come to that black place, which is nothing else but the black mountain that is a mine of adamant, which this very minute draws all your fleet towards it, by virtue of the iron that is in your ships; and when we come to-morrow at a certain distance, the strength of the adamant will have such a force that all the nails will be drawn out of the ships and fasten to the mountain, so that your vessel will fall in pieces, and sink to the bottom.

"This mountain (continued the pilot) is very rugged, on the top of it there is a dome of fine brass, supported by pillars of the same, and upon the top of this dome there stands a horse of the same metal, a rider on its back, who has a plate of lead fixed on his breast, upon which some talismanical characters are engraved. Sir, the tradition is, that this statue is the chief cause that so many ships and men have been lost and sunk in this place, and that it will ever continue to be dismal to all those that have the misfortune to come near it, until such time that it shall be thrown down."

The pilot having ended his discourse, began to weep, and this made all the rest of the ships company to do the like. I myself had no other thoughts, but that my days were to have an end. In the mean time every one began to provide for his own safety, and to that end I took all imaginable precautions, and being uncertain of the event, they all made one another their heirs, by virtue of a will for the benefit of those that should happen to be saved.

The next morning we perceived the black mountain very plain, and the idea we had conceived of it, made it appear more frightful than it was. About noon, as we were come so near, that we found what the pilot had foretold to be true, for we saw all the nails and irons about the ship, fly towards the mountain where they fixed by the violence of the attraction, with a horrible noise: the ship split, and sunk into the sea, which was so deep about that place, that we could not sound it. All my people were drowned, but God had mercy on me, and permitted me to save myself by means of a plank, which the wind drove ashore just at the foot of the mountain. I did not receive the least hurt, and my good fortune brought me to a landing place, where there were steps that went up to the top of the mountain.

At the sight of these steps I gave thanks to god and recom-

mended myself to his holy protection, as I began to mount the steps, which were so narrow, rugged, and hard to get up, that had the wind blown ever so little, it would have thrown me down into the sea. But at last I got up to the top without accident. I came into the dome, and kneeling on the ground, gave God thanks for his mercies to me.

I passed the night under the dome, and in my sleep an old man appeared to me, and said, hearken, Agib, as soon as thou art awake, dig up the ground under thy feet; thou shalt find a bow of brass and three arrows of lead, that are made under certain constellations, to deliver mankind from so many calamities that threaten them. Shoot the three arrows at the statue, and the rider shall fall into the sea, but the horse will fall down by thy side, which thou must bury in the same place from whence you took the bow and arrows. This being done, the sea will swell up to the foot of the dome that stands upon the top of the mountain. When it is come so high, thou shalt see a boat with one man, and an oar in each hand: This man is also metal, but different from that thou hast thrown down: step on board to him, without mentioning the name of God, and he will conduct thee. He will in ten days time bring thee into another sea, where thou shalt find an opportunity to get home to thy country safe and sound, provided, as I have told thee, thou dost not mention the name of God during the whole voyage.

This was the contents of the old man's discourse. When I awaked I was very much comforted by this vision, and did not fail to observe every thing that he had commanded me. I took the bow and arrow out of the ground, shot them at the horseman and with the third arrow I overthrew him, and he fell into the sea, and the horse fell by my feet, which I buried in the place whence I took the bow and arrows; and in the mean time the sea swelled up and rose by degrees: When it came so high as the foot of the dome that stood upon the top of the mountain, I saw afar off a boat rowing towards me, and I returned God thanks that every thing succeeded according to my dream.

At last the boat came ashore, and I saw the man was made of metal, according as I had dreamt. I stepped aboard, and took great heed not to pronounce the name of God, neither spoke one word at all. I sat down and the man of metal began to row off from the mountain: He rowed

without ceasing till the ninth day when I saw some island, which put me in hopes that I should be out of the danger that I was afraid of. The excess of my joy made me forget what I was forbidden to do : God's name be blest, said I, the Lord be praised.

I had no sooner spoke these words but the boat sunk with the man of metal, and leaving me upon the surface, I swam the remaining part of the day towards the land which appeared nearest to me. A very dark night succeeded, and not knowing whereabouts I was, I swam at a venture ; my strength began at last to fail, and I despaired of being able to save myself ; when the wind began to blow hard, and a wave as big as a mountain, threw me on a flat, where it left me, and drew back. I made haste to get ashore, fearing another wave might wash me back again. The first thing I did, was to strip, and wring the water out of my clothes, and then laid them down to dry on the sand, which was still pretty warm by the heat of the day.

Next morning the sun dried my clothes, I put them on, and went forwards to see whereabouts I was ; I had got upon a little desert island, though very pleasant, where grew several sorts of trees and wild fruits ; but I perceived it was very far from the continent, which much diminished the joy I had conceived for having escaped the danger of the seas. At the same time I saw a vessel coming from the main land, directly to the island. I doubted not but they were coming to anchor there, and being uncertain what sort of people they might be, whether friends or foes, so I thought it not safe for me to be seen. I got up in a very thick tree, from whence I might view them. The vessel came into a little creek, where ten slaves landed carrying a spade and other instruments fit for digging ; they went towards the middle of the island, where I saw them stop and dig the ground a long while, after which I saw them lift up a trap door. They returned again to the vessel, and unloaded several sorts of provisions and furniture, which they carried to that place where they had broken the ground and went downwards, which made me suppose it was a subterraneous dwelling.

I saw them once more go to the ship, and return soon after with an old man who led a very handsome young lad in his hand, about 14 or 15 years of age : they all went down at the trap door. And being come up again having

let down the trap door and covered it over with earth, they returned to the creek where the ship lay, but I saw not the young man in their company.

The old man and slaves went aboard again, and the vessel having got under sail, steered its course towards the main land. When I perceived they were at such a distance that they could not see me, I came down from the tree, and went directly to the place where I had seen the ground broke; I removed the earth by degrees, till I found a stone that was two or three feet square, I lifted it up, and saw it covered the head of the stairs which was also of stone. I went down into a large room, laid with a foot carpet, and a couch covered with tapestry, and cushions of rich stuff, upon which the young man stood with a fan in his hand. I saw all this by the light of the tapers, together with the fruits and flower-pots he had standing about him. The young man was startled at the sight of me. But to rid him of his fears, I spoke to him thus: whoever you be, Sir, do not fear any thing; a king, and the son of a king, as I am, is not capable of doing you any prejudice. On the contrary, it is probable that your good destiny has brought me hither to deliver you out of this tomb, where it seems they have buried you alive, for reasons unknown to me.

The young man recovered himself at these words, and prayed me with a smiling countenance to sit down by him; which when I had done, he said, prince, I am to acquaint you with a matter so odd in itself, that it cannot but surprise you.

My father is a merchant jeweller, who has acquired by his calling a great estate; he hath a great many slaves, and also deputies, whom he employs to go as supercargoes to sea with his own ships, on purpose to maintain a correspondence he has at several courts, which he furnishes with such precious stones as they want.

He had been married a long while, and without issue, when he understood by a dream he should have a son, though his life would be but short, at which he was very much concerned when he awaked. Some days after, my mother acquainted him that she was with child, and the time which she supposed to be that of her conception, agreed exactly with the day of his dream. She was brought to bed with me at the end of nine months, which occasioned great joy in the family.

My father, who had observed the very moment of my birth, consulted astrologers about my nativity; who told him your son shall live very happily till the age of fifteen, when he shall be in danger of losing his life, and hardly be able to escape with it. If his good destiny preserves him beyond that time he will live to grow very old. 'Twill be then, said they when the statue of brass that stands upon the top of the mountain of adamant shall be thrown into the sea by prince Agib, the son of king Cassib; and as the stars prognosticate, your son shall be killed 50 days after by him.

As the event of this part of the prediction about the statue agrees exactly with my father's dream, it afflicted him so much that he was struck to the very heart with it. In the mean time he took all imaginable care of my education, until this year which is the 15th of my age, and he had notice given him of the statue of brass being thrown into the sea ten days ago, by that same prince I told you of. This news has cost him so many tears and alarmed him so much that he looks not like himself.

Upon these predictions of the astrologers, he has sought by all possible means to falsify my horrescope, and to preserve my life. It is not long since he took this precaution, to build me this subterraneous habitation to hide me in, till the expiration of the 50 days after the throwing down the statue, and therefore since it was that this had happened 10 days ago, he hasted hither to hide me, and promised at the end of 40 days to come again for me. As for my own part, I am in good hopes, and cannot believe that the prince will seek me here under ground, on a desert island. This, my lord, is what I have to say to you.

Whilst he was telling me this story, I laughed in myself at those astrologers that foretold I should take away his life; for I thought myself so far from being likely to verify what they said, that he had scarce done speaking, when I told him with great joy. Dear sir, I am glad that after my shipwreck, I came so fortunately hither to defend you against all those that would attempt your death; I will not leave you till the 40 days are expired, of which the foolish astrologers have made you so apprehensive; and in the mean while I will do you all the service that lies in my power, after which I shall have the benefit of getting to the main land in your vessel.

This discourse of mine encouraged the jeweller's son

and made him have confidence in me. I took care not to tell him, that I was the very Agib whom he dreaded, lest I should put him in a fright; and took as much care not to give him any cause to suspect it.

We had time enough to contract a friendship. I found he loved me; and for my part, I had so great a respect for him, that I have often said to myself "These astrologers who predicted to his father, that his son should die by my hand, were imposters, for it is impossible that I could commit so base an action." In short, madam, we spent 39 days in the pleasantest manner that could be, in a place like that under ground.

The 40th day appeared; and in the morning, when the young man awaked, he says to me, with a transport of joy that he could not restrain, Prince, this is the 40th day, and I yet live, thanks to God and your good company. My father will not fail to be here anon, and give you a testimony of his gratitude for it, and will furnish you with all that is necessary for you to return to your kingdom: now I beg of you to get ready some warm water, to wash my whole body in that portable bagnio, that I may clean myself, and change my clothes ready to receive my father.

I set the water on the fire, and when it was hot, put it into the movable bagnios: the youth went in, and I washed and rubbed him. At last he came out and laid himself down on his bed, that I had prepared, and covered him with his bed-clothes. After he had slept awhile, he awaked, and said, Dear prince, pray do me the favor to fetch me a melon and some sugar, that I may eat some and refresh me.

Out of several melons that remained I took the best, and laid it on a plate; and because I could not find a knife to cut it with, I asked him where there was one. There is one, said he, upon this cornish over my head. I accordingly saw it, and made so much haste to reach it, that when I had it in my hand, my foot slipped, and I fell most unhappily upon the young man, and the knife run into his heart in a minute.

At this spectacle I cried out most hideously; I beat my head, my face, and breast; tore my clothes, and hair. Alas! I cried, there were only a few hours wanting to have put him out of danger of which he sought sanctuary here. And when I myself thought the danger past, then I became his murderer, and verified the prediction. But, O

Eord, said I, lifting up my face and my hands to heaven, I beg pardon, and if I be guilty of his death, let me not live any longer.

Madam, continued the third caller, addressing himself to Zoheide, after this misfortune I would have embraced death without any reluctance, had it presented itself to me. But what we wish ourselves, whether good or bad, will not always happen. Now, considering with myself, that all my tears and sorrows would not bring the young man to life again, and the 40 days being expired, I must be surprised by his father, I quitted that subterraneous dwelling, laid the great stone upon the entry of it, and covered it with earth.

I had scarce done, when I perceived the vessel coming to bring the young man home. I began to consider what I had best do; and said to myself, if I am seen by the old man he will certainly lay hold of me, and perhaps cause me to be massacred by his slaves; when he has seen his son killed, all that I can alledge to justify myself, will not be able to persuade him of my innocence. It is better for me to withdraw, while it is in my power, than to expose myself to his resentment.

There happened to be near the subterraneous habitation, a large tree with thick leaves, which I thought fit for me to hide in. I got up to it, and was no sooner fixed in a place where I could not easily be seen, but I saw the vessel come to the same place where she lay the first time.

The old man and his slaves landed immediately, and advanced towards the subterraneous dwelling, with a countenance that shewed some hopes; but when they saw the earth had been newly removed, they changed color, particularly the old man. They lifted up the stone and went down; they called the young man by his name, but he not answering, their fears increased; they went down to seek him, and at length found him laying on a bed with a knife in his heart, for I had no power to take it out. At this sight they cried out lamentably, and my sorrow increased; the old man fell down in swoon. The slaves, to give him air, brought him up, and laid him at the foot of the tree where I was; but notwithstanding all the pains they took to recover him, The unfortunate father continued a long while in that condition, and made them oftener than once despair of his life; but at last he came to himself. Then the slaves brought up his son's corpse, drest him in his best apparel, and when they had made a grave, they put him into it. The old man, supported by two slaves, and his face covered with tears, threw the first earth upon him, after which the slaves filled up the grave.

This being done, all the furniture was brought up and put on board the vessel. The old man not being able to stand, was laid upon a sort of litter, and carried to the ship, which put to sea, and in a short time sailed quite out of sight.

After the old man and his slaves were gone with their vessel, I was left alone upon the island. I lay that night in the subterraneous dwelling, which they had shut up, and when the day came,

walked round the isle, and stopt in such places as I thought most proper to repose in when I had need.

I led this wearisome life for a month; after which I perceived the sea to be mightily fallen, the island to be much larger, and the main land seemed to be drawing near me. In effect, the water grew so low, that there was but a small stream between me to find the terra firma. I crossed it, and the water did not come above the middle of my leg; and at last I got upon firm ground, and when at a good distance from the sea, I saw before me somewhat like a great fire; but when I came nearer hand, I saw that what I had taken to be a fire, was a castle of red copper, which the beams of the sun made look at a distance as if it had been in flames.

I stopped near the castle, and sat down to admire its structure, and rest awhile: I had not sat long, when I saw ten young men coming along, as if they had been taking a walk; but what most surprised me, was, that they were all blind of the right eye: they accompanied an old man, who was very tall, and of a venerable aspect.

I could not but wonder at the sight of so many half blind men, and every one of the same eye. As I was thus thinking, they came up to me, and seemed to be mighty glad to see me. After the first compliments, they enquired what brought me hither. I told them I would satisfy their request, and related to them all that had happened unto me since I left my kingdom, which filled them with astonishment.

After I had ended my discourse, the young gentleman prayed me to go with them into the castle. I accepted the offer, and they led me into a spacious hall, where there were ten blue sofas set round, upon which they sat by day and slept by night. In the middle of this there stood the eleventh sofa, not so high as the rest, but of the same color, upon which the old man above mentioned sat down, and one of the young men says to me, Conrade, sit down upon the carpet in the middle of the room, and do not enquire into any thing that concerns us, nor the reason why we are all blind of the right eye: be content with what you see and let not your curiosity go any further.

The old man having sat a little while, rose up and brought in supper to these ten gentlemen, distributed to each man his portion by himself, and likewise brought me mine, which I eat by myself as the rest did; and when supper was almost done, he presented to each of us a cup of wine.

One of the gentleman observed that it was late, said to the old man, you see it is time to go to bed, and you dont bring that with which we may acquit ourselves of our duty. At these words the old man rose up, and went into the closet, from whence

he brought out upon his head, ten basons, one after another, all covered with black stuff; he set one before every gentleman, together with a light.

They uncovered their basons, in which there was ashes, coal dust and lamp-black; they mixed all together, and rubbed and daubed their faces with it in such a manner that they looked very frightful. After having thus blacked themselves, they fell a weeping and lamenting, beating their heads and breast, and cried continually, This is the fruit of our idleness, and debaucheries.

They continued thus almost the whole night, and when they left off, the old man brought them water, with which they washed their face and hands; they changed also their cloaths which were spoiled, and put on others; so that they did not look in the least as if they had been doing so strange an action.

After we got up next day we went out to walk, and then I told them, Gentlemen, I declare to you, that I must renounce the laws which you prescribed to me last night for I cannot observe it; you are men of sense, and yet I have seen you do such actions as none but a madman could be capable of. Whatever misfortune befall me, I cannot forbear to ask, why you bedaubed your faces with black? how it comes that each of you has but one eye? some singular thing must be the cause. To these pressing instances, they answered nothing, but that it was none of my business to ask such questions, and that I should do well to hold my peace.

We passed that day in discourse upon different subjects, and when night was come, and every man had supped, the old man brought in the blue basons, and the young gentlemen bedaubed their faces, went and beat themselves as before, and continued the same actions the following night. At last, not being able to resist my curiosity, I earnestly prayed them to satisfy me, or shew me how to return to my own kingdom.

One of the gentlemen answered in behalf of the rest, Do not wonder at our conduct in regard to yourself and that hitherto we have not granted your request, it is out of mere kindness, to prevent you the sorrow of being reduced to the same condition with us. If you have a mind to try our unfortunate destiny, speak, and we will give you the satisfaction you desire. I told them I was resolved on it, come what would. Once more, said the same gentleman, we advise you to restrain your curiosity, it will cost you the loss of your eye. No matter, said I, I declare to you that if such a misfortune befall me, I will not impute it to you but to myself.

He further represented to me, that when I lost an eye I must not hope to stay with them, if I were so minded, because their number was complete, and no addition could be made to it. I told them that it would be a great satisfaction to me never to part from such honest gentlemen, but if there was a necessity for it, I was ready to submit; and let it cost me what it would, I begged them to grant my request.

The ten gentlemen perceiving that I was so positive in my resolution, took a sheep and killed it, and after they had taken off the skin, presented it to me with a knife, telling me it would be useful to me on a certain occasion

which they would tell me presently. We must sew you into this skin, said they, and then leave you; upon which a fowl, of a monstrous size, called a rock, will appear in the air, and taking you to be a sheep, will come down upon you, and carry you up to the sky; but let not that frighten you, for he will leave you upon the top of a mountain. When you find yourself upon the ground, cut the skin with the knife, and throw it off. As soon as the rock sees you, he will fly-away for fear, and leave you at liberty; walk till you come to a large castle, all covered with plates of gold, large emeralds, and other precious stones; go up to the gate which always stands open, and walk in. We have been in the castle as long as we have been here. We will tell you nothing of what we saw or befel us there; but will learn it of yourself. All that we inform you, is, that it has cost each of us a right eye, and that penance you have been witness to, is because we are obliged to do because we have been there.

Madam, when the gentleman had ended his discourse, I wrapt myself in the sheep's skin, held fast the knife which was given me; and after those young gentlemen had been at the trouble to sew the skin about me, they retired into the hall, and left me on the place. The rock they spoke of was not long coming; he fell down upon me, and took me up between his talons like a sheep, and carried me to the top of the mountain.

When I had found myself upon the ground, I made use of the knife, cut the skin, and throwing it off, the rock at the sight of me flew away. This rock is a white bird of a monstrous size; his strength is such, that he can lift up elephants from the plains, and carry them to the tops of mountains, where he feeds upon them.

Being impatient, I reached the castle. The gate being open, I entered into a court that was square, and so large, that there were round in it 39 gates of wood, sanders, and aloes, with one of gold. The hundred doors opened into the gardens or store-houses, full of riches, or into places which contained things wonderful to be seen.

I saw a door standing open just before me, thro' which I entered into a large hall, where I found 40 young ladies of such perfect beauty, that imagination could not go beyond it: they were all most sumptuously apparelled, and soon as they saw me, rose up, and without expecting my compliments, said to me with demonstrations of joy Noble sir, you are welcome. And one spoke to me in the name of the rest, thus: We have been in expectation a long while of such a gentleman as you; your presence assures us that you are masters of all the good qualities we can wish for, and we hope you will not find our

company disagreeable or unworthy of yours.

They forced me, notwithstanding all the opposition I could make, to sit down on a seat that was higher than theirs; and though I signified that I was uneasy, That's your place, said they; you are at present our master and judge, and we your slaves, ready to obey your commands.

Nothing in the world, madam, did so much astonish me, as the passion and eagerness of these fair ladies to do me all possible service. One brought hot water to wash my feet, a second poured sweet scented water on my hands, others brought me all sorts of necessities, and change of apparel; others brought in a magnificent collation; and the rest came with glasses in their hands, to fill me delicious wines, and all in good order, and in the most charming manner that could be. I eat and drank, after which the ladies placed themselves about me, and desired a relation of my travels. I gave them a full relation of my adventures, which lasted till night came on.

When I had made an end of my story, which I related to the 40 ladies, some of them that sat the nearest to me, staid to keep me company, whilst the rest seeing it was dark, rose up to fetch tapers. The company brought a prodigious quantity, which made a marvellous light as if it had been day, and they were so proportionably disposed, that nothing could be more beautiful,

Other ladies covered a table with dry fruits, sweetmeats, and every thing proper to make liquors relish. And a side-board was set with several sorts of wines and other liquors. Some of the ladies came in with musical instruments, and when every thing was prepared, they invited me to supper.

The ladies sat down with me, and we continued a long time at supper. Some of them played a most charming concert. The others began a sort of a ball, and danced by two and two, one after another, with a wonderful good grace.

It was past midnight ere these divertisements ended: at length one of the ladies says to me, it is time for you to go to rest, your lodging is prepared; before you depart, make a choice of any of us you like best for a bed-fellow. I answered, that I knew better things than to offer to make my own choice, since they were all equally beautiful, witty, and worthy of my respects and service, and that I would not be guilty of so much incivility as to prefer one before another.

The same lady that spoke to me before, answered, we are all satisfied of your civility, and find you are afraid to create a jealousy amongst us, which occasions your modesty, but let not this hinder you. We assure you that the good fortune of whom you chuse shall cause no jealousy; for we are agreed among ourselves, that every one of us shall have the same honor till it go round; and when forty days are past to begin again; therefore make your free choice, and then take the repose you stand in need of. I was obliged to yield to their instances, and offered my hand to the lady that spoke; she in return gave me hers, and we were conducted to a sumptuous apartment, where they left us, and then every one retired to their own

apartment.

I was scarce dressed next morning, when the other 39 ladies came to my bed, all in new dresses. They bade me good-morrow, and enquired after my health ; after which they carried me into a bagnio, and washed me themselves, and whether I would or no, served me with every thing I stood in need of ; and when I came out of the bath, they made me put on another rich suit.

We passed the whole day almost constantly at table ; and when it was bed-time, they prayed me again to chuse one of them to keep me company. In short, madam, not to weary you with repetitions, I must tell you that I remained a whole year among those 40 ladies, and received them into my bed one after another. When the year was expired, I was strangely surprised at these 40 ladies, instead of their appearing with their usual cheerfulness to ask me how I did, enter one morning, within my chamber all in tears. They embraced me with great tenderness one after another, saying, adieu, dear prince adieu, for we must leave you. Their tears afflicted me : I prayed them to tell me the reason of their grief. For God's sake, fair ladies, let me know, said I, if it be in my power to comfort you, or if my assistance can be any wise useful to you. Instead of returning a direct answer, Would to God, said they, we had never seen or known you. Several gentlemen have honored us with their company before you, but none of them had the comeliness, sweetness, and pleasantness of humor and merit which you have. We know not how to live without you. My dear ladies said I, be so kind as to tell me the cause of all this. Alas ! said they, what other thing could be capable of grieving us, but the necessity of parting from you ? It may so happen that we shall never see you again : but if you have command enough over yourself, it is possible for us to meet again. I do not understand your meaning, pray explain it more clearly.

Oh then ! said one of them, we must acquaint you, that we are all princesses, daughters of kings ; we live here as you have seen ; but at the end of every year we are obliged to be absent forty days, upon indispensable duties, which we are not permitted to reveal, and after that return again to this castle. Yesterday was the last day of the year, and we must leave you this day, which is the cause of our grief. Before we depart, we will leave you the keys of every thing, especially those belonging to the hundred doors, where you will find enough to satisfy your curiosity, and to sweeten your solitude during our absence : but for your own welfare, and our particular concern for you, we recommend unto you to forbear opening the golden door, for if you do, we shall never see you again ; and the fear of this augments our grief. We hope nevertheless, that you'll follow the advice we give you ; therefore take heed that you do not give way to indiscreet curiosity, for you will do yourself a considerable prejudice. We conjure you therefore not to commit that fault, but let us have the comfort of finding you after 40 days. We would willingly carry the key of the golden door along with us but that would be an affront to a prince like you, to question your discretion and modesty.

I omitted not to make them sensible how much their absence

would afflict me. I thanked them for their good advice, and assured them that I would follow it, and willingly do what was much more disagreeable in order to be so happy as to pass the rest of my days with ladies of such rare qualifications. We then took leave with a great deal of tenderness, and having embraced them all, at last they departed, and left me alone.

I promised myself not to forget the advice they had given me, not to open the golden door : and as I was permitted to satisfy my curiosity in every thing else, I opened the first door, and came into an orchard, which I believe could not be equalled.

I ought not to forget, madam, to acquaint you, that this delicious orchard was watered after a very peculiar manner ; there were channels so artificially and proportionably dug, that they carried water in plenty to the roots of such trees as wanted it. Others carried only so much as was just requisite to water those that had their fruit come to perfection, and wanted to be ripened. They exceeded the ordinary fruits of our gardens very much in bigness ; and lastly, those channels that watered the trees whose fruit was ripe, had no more moisture than just what preserved them from withering.

I could never be weary to look at and admire so sweet a place. I went out at last with my mind filled with those wonders : I shut the door, and opened next.

Instead of an orchard, I found a flower garden, which was no less extraordinary in its kind : it contained a spacious plot, not watered so profusely as the former, but with great niceness, furnishing no more water than just what each flower required.

I opened the third door, where I found a large solitary paved with marble of several fine colors that were not common. The cage was made of larder and wood of aloes ; it contained a vast number of singing birds.

I failed not to open the fourth door next day, and if what I had seen before was capable of surprising me, that which I saw now put me into a perfect ecstasy.

I went into a large court surrounded with a building of an admirable structure, the description of which I pass by to avoid prolixity.

This building had forty doors wide open, and through each of them there was an entrance into a treasury of greater value than the largest kingdom. The first contained heaps of pearl ; and what is almost incredible, the number of these stones, which were most precious, and as large as pigeon's eggs, exceeding the number of those of the ordinary size. In the second treasury there were diamonds, carbuncles, and rubies. In the third emeralds. In the fourth there were ingots of gold. In the fifth money. In the sixth ingots of silver. In the two following there were also money. The rest contained amethysts, crysolists, topazes, opals, turquoises, and hyacinths, with all other fine stones, unknown to us, without mentioning agate, jasper, and cornelian and coral of which there was a store house filled, not only with branches, but whole trees.

Being filled with amazement and admiration, I cried out to myself, what good fortune have I to possess all this wealth, with so many admirable princesses !

I shall not stay, madam, to tell you the particulars of all the other rare and precious things I saw the days following. I shall only tell you, that 39 days afforded me but just as much time as was necessary to open 99 doors, and admire all that presented itself to my view, so that there was only the 100th left, the opening of which I was forbid.

I was come to the 40th day after the departure of those charmers, and had I but retained so much power over myself as I thought to have had, I this day would have been the happiest of all mankind, whereas now I am the most unfortunate. They were to return next night, and the pleasures of seeing them again, ought to have restrained my curiosity: but through my weakness, which I shall ever repent, I yielded to the temptations of the evil spirit, which gave me no rest till I had thrown myself into these misfortunes I have since undergone.

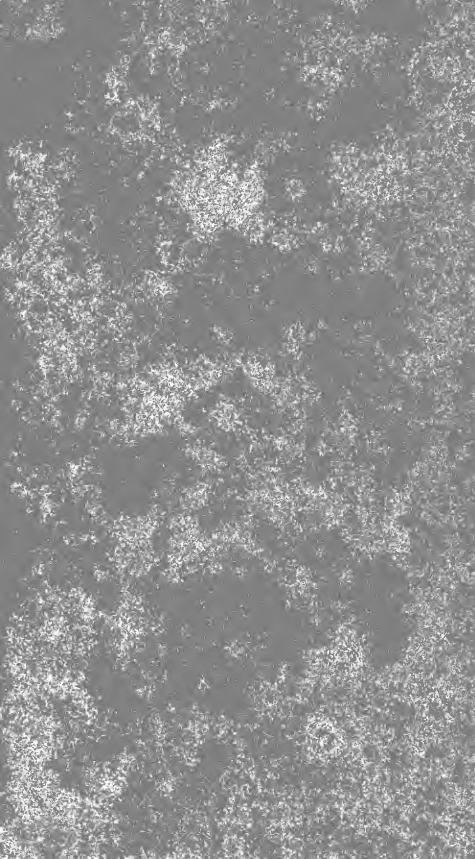
I opened the fatal door, which I promised not to meddle with, and had not moved my foot to go in, till a smell that was pleasant enough but contrary to my constitution, made me faint away: nevertheless, I came to myself again, and instead of taking notice of this warning to shut the door, and forbear satisfying my curiosity, I went in.

Amongst a great many objects that engaged my attention, I perceived a black horse, of the handsomest and best shape that ever was seen. I went nearer, the better to observe him, and found he had a saddle and a bridle of massy gold, curiously made. I took him by the bridle, and led him forth to view him by the light: I got upon his back, and would have had him move: but he not stirring, I whipt him with a switch I had taken up in this magnificent stable; and he had no sooner felt the stroke, than he began to neigh with a horrible noise, and extended his wings, which I had not seen. He flew up with me into the air, out of sight. I thought on nothing then but to sit fast; and considering the fear that had seized me, I sat very well. He afterwards flew down towards the earth, and lighting upon the terrace of a castle, without giving me any time to get off, he shook me out of the saddle with such force, that he made me fall behind him, and with the end of his tail struck out my right eye.

Thus I became blind of an eye, and then I began to remember the prediction of the ten young men. The horse flew again out sight. I got up very much troubled at the misfortune I brought upon myself. I walked upon the terrace, covering my eye with one of my hands, for it pained me exceedingly, and then came down and entered into a hall, which I knew perfectly by the 10 sofas in a circle, and the 11th in the middle, lower than the rest, to be the same castle from whence I was taken by the rock.

The ten half blind gentlemen were not in the hall when I came in, but soon after came with the old man; they were not at all surprised to see me, nor at the loss of my eye; but said, We are very sorry that we cannot congratulate you on your return as we could have desired; but we are not the cause of your misfortune. I should be in the wrong to accuse you, said I, for I have drawn it on myself, and I can charge the fault upon no other person. They told me the way I was to travel, and so I left them.

THE END



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